FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 APRIL 1985

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil briefed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the crisis in a lengthy telephone conversation and then contacted Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who agreed to continue to serve in a caretaker role until the government crisis is resolved, Beirut radio reported. Beirut radio also broadcast remarks by Amal movement leader Nabih Birri deploring the "nightmare" of sectarian violence in West Beirut and accusing "newcomers, foreigners, and guests" of backing an "uprising" by those opposed to plans for a meeting of national forces to study the security situation. The Amal leader subsequently hosted a meeting attended by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and other leftist party leaders at which the conferees agreed to establish a unified military command and a joint strike force to deal with security problems, according to a statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio. The statement also viewed the security of Palestinian camps "as part of Lebanon's national security" and announced a mobilization of all forces to repel the Phalangist "aggression" against Sidon.

As for the military situation in Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Al-Murabitun gunmen took refuge in the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian camps, which were subsequently surrounded by Amal gunmen. Amal and its allies gained near total control over West Beirut in the fighting, which caused over 60 casualties, the radio said. In Baghdad, a PLO Executive Committee statement cited by INA viewed the current events in Beirut as the beginning of a new phase of an "Israeli-U.S. plot" to end the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. In another military development, Israeli planes attacked a Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine base at Barr Ilyas in the Al-Biqa' Valley on 17 April, IDF radio announced citing the IDF spokesman. Meanwhile, 10 IDF soldiers were wounded in three separate incidents in the south the same day, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Israel-Egypt

No date has been set for a summit between Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Minister 'Ezer Weizman emphasized in a news conference reported by ITIM, but he spoke of much "goodwill" during his Egyptian talks even though the situation remains "chilly." As for the Egyptian side, Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stressed ties with Israel will "greatly improve" although it is "still too early" to set a summit date, Jerusalem radio stated.

Sudan

While Muslim Brotherhood leader Hasan al-Turabi "threatened to open fire" on those who want to revoke Islamic law, southern Sudanese politicians made repeal of Islamic laws a condition for their participation in the transitional government, according to AFP reports. Meanwhile, Armed Forces Commander in Chief Colonel 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar al-Dhahab, in an interview with Egypt's *AL-AHALI* cited by Omdurman radio, confirmed his intent to revoke the decree dividing the south into three regions.

Jordan

A 17 April government policy statement broadcast on Amman radio called for better communication and cooperation between the executive and legislative branches in domestic Arab, and international areas.

Iran

Commenting on the plan to reorganize the Iranian Army in a *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI interview cited by IRNA, Armed* Forces Chief Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi said the Majlis defense commission has drawn up the new organization plan and approved its principles, adding that both the Majlis and Army are studying changes for the personnel and decisionmaking structures.

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Palestinian Responses to Visit by U.S Envoy

Statement Presented to Murphy

JN171820 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Thirty-eight Palestinian figures in the West Bank and Gaza have asserted that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They called for establishing an independent Palestinian state. This came in a statement presented by these figures to Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, during a meeting in occupied Jerusalem yesterday. The Palestinian figures said that they consider the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative to exercise the Palestinian people's national and political rights. They called on the United States to deal and hold a direct dialogue with the PLO. They said that only this will put the Arabs on the right path and open the way for achieving peace. The Palestinian figures called on the United States to immediately put a limit on Zionist practices in the occupied Arab territory, particularly in relation to building settlements.

PLF on Murphy Visit

JN190509 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Damascus, 17 Apr (SANA) — Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] Central Committee, has affirmed that the meeting between Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, and King Husayn's surrogates in the West Bank on the basis of the rightist, deviationist, and capitulatory leadership's positive response to Husni Mubarak's initiative signifies the leadership's participation in the second part of the Camp David Accords. In his statement today, Ya'qub called for concerted efforts with all the forces rejecting this trend to foil this [Husayn-'Arafat] agreement and its symbols on the basis of the national Charter and the resolutions of the legitimate PNC sessions. He indicated that Murphy's visit to the Middle East comes at a time when our area is witnessing extremely grave and important political developments. The Lebanese arena is experiencing massive uprisings to confront the Zionist occupier amid the continuation of Lebanese national resistance attacks against the occupation forces to compel them to withdraw unconditonally. This fervent move also comes at a time when Israel is operating through its agents to blow up the situation and to revive the fascist partition plan. Ya'qub added that the U.S. plan under which Murphy's visit comes is aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and the historical and inalienable rights of the Palestinians. The most dangerous element facing the Palestinian revolution today is the attempt to liquidate it internally through the Husayn-'Arafat agreement.

PFLP Condemns Murphy Meeting

JN180555 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Damascus — The PFLP has condemned U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's meeting with suspect Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the U.S. Consulate in occupied Jerusalem on Tuesday. A PFLP spokesman stated that the emblems who met with Murphy represent only themselves. These emblems are only a band of agents who have deviated from the national will of the Palestinian people. The spokesman added that this meeting is part of the current preparatory moves the U.S. Administration, the Jordanian regime, and the deviationist 'Arafatist clique are undertaking to implement the ill-omened Amman agreeemnt. The spokesman warned the agent and suspect emblems of the consequences of proceeding on the conspiratorial course against the Palestinian revolution and its just cause.

Memo Given to Murphy

JN180824 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Apr 85 p 20

[Text] Amman, *AL-DUSTUR* — A number of personalities from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have affirmed that the PLO, under PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland. During their meeting with Richard Murphy, U.S. envoy and assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, at the U.S. Consualte in Jerusalem on Tuesday, 16 April, these personalities presented a memorandum in which they called on the United States to recognize the PLO and enter a dialogue with it to reach a just solution to the Palestine question. Reports from the occupied territories said the Palestinian personalities stressed in their written memorandum that doing so is the right way to achieve peace. They also called on the United States to exert pressure on Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Among the personalities that met with Murphy were Ibrahim al-Tawil, mayor of Al-Birah, who was deposed by the occupation authorities; Hikmat al-Masri, chairman of the board of trustees of Al-Najah University; Rashad al-Shawwa, mayor of Gaza, who was deposed by the Israeli authorities; Sabri Khalaf, mayor of Jericho; and Ilyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem.

The following is the text of the memorandum:

Text of memorandum presented by a group of Palestinian personalities from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Richard Murphy at the U.S. Consulate in western Jerusalem:

Mr Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs:

The U.S. Administration is accustomed to sending official and unofficial envoys to the Middle East on missions that are sometimes described as fact-finding and at times as aimed at promoting the peace process and seizing peace opportunities. This administration is accustomed to asking representatives in the Middle East, particularly in the occupied Arab territories, to arrange meetings with Palestinian personalities from Jerusalem, the Bank, and the Strip, to listen to these personalities' viewpoints, as they represent the viewpoint of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

In most cases, we met with these U.S. enovys, explained to them our people's viewpoint, and asked them to convey it to the U.S. Administration, the White House, the Department of State, or any other circle. Despite these many meetings, so far we have not sensed any change in the U.S. stand. The U.S. Adminsitation still refuses to recognize our people's right to self-determination. It refuses to talk with the PLO, which our people have, on all occasions, reiterated is their sole legitimate representative and which alone has the right to represent and talk on behalf of the Palestinian people.

The U.S. stand, which remains unchanged, has not been in the interest of peace in the Middle East and will have a bad effect not only on the future of this region's peoples, but also on U.S. interests in the Middle East. It is time the U.S. Administration reconsiders its previous policies adn commitments toward the other party, particularly those that no more have practical value. Therefore, we put before you the following facts on paper and ask you to convey them to the officials in your country, foremost being President Ronald Reagan.

1. The Palestinian people's sons in the occupied territories are part of the Palestinian people, one-third of whom live here and two-thirds in the diaspora. Any settlement of the Palestine question must deal with the entire problem and not just the inhabitants of the occupied territories.

2. The Palestine question is a national political issue that is represented by the Palestinian people's insistence on attaining their national rights, foremost being their right to self-determination and establishment of their indepndent state on their national soil, as well as their right to choose their representatives without any pressure of tutelage.

3. On more than one occasion, our people inside and outside the occupied territories have affirmed the PLO as their sole legitimate representative. Our people regard this choice as practice of a basic right.

4. Direct dialogue with the PLO is the only correct path that opens the way to opportunities for achieving peace.

5. We absolutely support the PLO stand under Yasir 'Arafat and ask for dealing with it in regard to the Palestine question.

6. We ask the U.S. Administration to work immediately toward ending Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, particularly with regard to settlements, seizure of land, violation of human rights, and attempts to liquidate the national spirit of our people's younger generation.

We hope you will convey our viewpoint to your administration.

[Dated] Jerusalem, 16 April 1985

The memorandum was sgined by the following:

Rashad al-Shawwa, lawyer Anwar al-Khatib, lawyer Anwar Nusaybah, Hikmat al-Masri, Zafir al-Masri, Mustafa al-Natshah, Ilyas Frayj, Ibrahim al-Tawil, Amin al-Nasir, Amin Majaj, lawyer Zuhayr al-Rayyis, Priest 'Awdah al-Rantisi, Hanna al-Atrash, Fayiz al-Qawasimi, Amin al-Khatib, Samir al-Ja'bari, Adib Burnus, pharmacist Muhammad ibn Hashim, lawyer Fayiz abu Rahmah, lawyer Ibrahim al-Daqqaq, 'Izz al-Din al-'Aryan, Hanna Sanyurah, lawyer Ziyad Abu Ziyad, Mansur al-Shawwa, Basil Hamdi Kan'an, Sa'id Kan'an, 'Isam al-Shawwa, Khalid 'Usayli, 'Uthman Hanna, 'Isam al-'Anani, Farah al-A'raj, Dr Akram Matar, Sabri Khalaf, Hashim al-Salih, Wasif Shkukani, and Mahmud al-Qawwar.

Voice of PLO Comment

JN180456 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1637 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, Richard Murphy is not the first U.S. assistant secretary of state to tour the Middle East. It may be recalled that secretaries of state have made such tours on many previous occasions. The region has known Dulles, Rogers, Kissinger, Vance, Haig, and Shultz. All of these, as well as their assistants, came to us with various U.S. aims under the slogan that interests and deceives us — finding a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Zionist struggle. Each time, and following every period of Arab preoccupation with them, the visitors returned to Washington and the struggle seemed more entrenched with a stronger U.S. position in Israel's favor.

This is not the first time a U.S. official has met with Palestinian figures. This happened in the past in both Jerusalem and Washington. U.S. secretaries of state and their assistants met with Palestinians as Murphy did yesterday. In point of fact, the Palestinian viewpoint is not the thing that is hidden from the U.S. officials. On the contrary, the positions of U.S. Administrations vis-a-vis the Palestinian people's national rights are both ambiguous and hostile. Is there any justification for the belief that Murphy's current tour or his meeting with Palestinian figures at a reception in the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem is a tour and meeting with a new U.S. outlook? Certainly not.

The Middle East problem is not an unknown puzzle. It does not require all these comings and goings in what the foreign delegations like to call fact-finding missions. No matter how the United States — through its connivance with Israel and providinga cover for it — tries to ignore or circumvent this problem, the Palestinian cause, which is the crux of both the struggle and the solution, will emerge again. The Palestinian people's legitimate rights will remain the fire that inflames elements of tension. Efforts to extinguish this fire will not succeed so long as they do not restore Palestinian rights.

Resolution 242 ignores the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The verbal, rude U.S. adherence to this resolution does not go beyond adherence to what this resolution ignores, rather than to what its provisions could realize. The facts are that all U.S. policies, starting with the Rogers plan, passing through Kissinger's step-by-step diplomacy, Camp David's separate solutions, and ending with the Reagan initiative, have been attempts to serve Israel with the aim of upholding what Resolution 242 ignores: Palestinian national rights.

Murphy, who returns to find facts under the slogan of pushing peace forward, is looking for the existing factors or the ones that can be created in order to continue the previous U.S. policy. In the Arab capitals that he will visit, Murphy will search for solutions to the Palestinian question that will bypass this question. In his symbolic meeting with Palestinian figures from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Murphy is feeling the pulse with the aim of dividing the Palestinian question and people the Camp David way.

Surely we do not need evidence or proof that Murphy is doing this. The U.S. Adminsitration has not left anyone in doubt. It has repeatedly delcared its position regarding talking to or dealing with the PLO. It affirmed that this position also applies to talking or dealing with a joint delegation, be it an Arab delegation or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. There will be no new policy from Murphy or others so long as the Washington administration insists on not dealing with the Palestinian question through dealing with those concerned with it, represented by the PLO.

It is true that the PLO has presented a formulation of its minimum demands in both the Fes resolutions or in the Jordanians-Palestinian plan of action, but this was not and will never be to appease Murphy or his Washington administration. The Palestinian people's interests express themselves in this formulation. The U.S. envoy knew this from the Palestinian figures who agreed to meet him. He also knew it from the figures who refused to meet him. Murphy should also know this from the Arab capitals he is visiting. There are no other facts to be found in this region.

AFP Cites WAFA on Execution of Israeli Soldier

NC172200 Paris AFP in English 2143 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Tunis, April 17 (AFP) — An Israeli soldier, said to have been kidnapped on the occupied West Bank, has been executed, according to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the Palestinian News Agency WAFA reported here. In Jerusalem an Israeli military spokesman earlier today had denied that any Israeli soldier was missing and described the assertion as "pure fantasy." A caller to a foreign news agency in Beirut today claimed a Corporal Levi Ilya was kidnapped last Wednesday between Ramallah and Jerusalem and would be executed within 48 hours if fellow guerrillas held by Israel were not released. WAFA reported that a spokesman from the PLO Military Council in Northern Yemen said the execution was carried out because of Israel's refusal to release Palestinian guerrillas captured on March 30 by the Israeli Navy in Cypriot waters.

AL-BAYAN on 'Choices' Presented to 'Arafat

GF171610 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Apr 85 p 1

[Fahd al-Rimawi dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] *AL-BAYAN* has learned from well informed Jordanian sources that the Jordanian Government has set three choices before Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and given him a few days to choose one of them. They are:

1. That 'Arafat frankly and clearly recognizes UN Resolutions 242 and 338 including the recognition of Israel's right to existence within recognized limits, and, in this case, 'Arafat can name members of the Palestinian delegation for negotiations with the United States for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation from within the PLO and moreover from its Executive Committee.

2. Not to recognize the said decisions and thus not join in forming the Palestinian delegation from PLO members on the condition that after the negotiations progress, 'Arafat declares his recognition of what the delegation achieves, and in this way will be considered a partner in the peace operation.

3. If 'Arafat does not approve any of the two choices, then he has to find another way to move out of the framework of the Jordan agreement and to abolish this agreement.

Leading Palestinian sources in Baghdad told *AL-BAYAN* that fierce disputes took place within the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee about the joint Jordanian-Palestinian move and that 'Arafat threatened to resign his post if all do not agree on this move.

Other sources say that 'Arafat has actually presented his resignation and that the members of the two committees supporting his method are trying to dissuade him.

Voice of PLO on Joint Forces Operations in Lebanon

JN171828 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces detonated explosive charges under a Zionist occupation forces' vehicle in Dayr Qanun al-Nahr in southern Lebanon yesterday.

The explosion destroyed the vehicle and killed or injured its occupants.

The heroes of the joint forces also detonated explosive charges under a military patrol belonging to the so-called militias of the army of southern Lebanon in (Al-Jumruk) in southern Lebanon yesterday.

A jeep was destroyed, another was damaged, and a number of agent militias were killed or injured.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted these two operations, but declined to mention his losses and those of his agents. He said that his forces and elements from the agent militias immediately launched a large-scale search and detention campaign against the heroes of the joint forces, but in vain.

BAHRAIN

Omani Sultan Qabus, Amir Discuss Arms Purchases

GF171446 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Apr 85 p 1

[Excerpt] *AL-BAYAN* has learned that Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman discussed yesterday with Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah the question of arms purchases from Egypt for the two countries in view of the Sultan's impending trip to Cairo.

The fifth GCC summit held in Kuwait, allocated funds to support the military capabilities of Oman and Bahrain.

AL-BAYAN has learned that during his talks Sultan Qabus referred to the question before the upcoming GCC summit in Muscat this November regarding the restoration of relations with Egypt if a comprehensive Arab summit is not held before the Muscat meeting.

KUWAIT

Visiting Czechoslovak Minister Meets Officials

GF171209 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] Kuwait's "great and constructive" role in efforts to achieve world peace were applauded yesterday by the Czechoslovak foreign minister, Bohuslav Chnoupek, who is on a three-day visit to the country.

Chnoupek paid particular tribute to Kuwait's efforts in trying to find a solution to the "sorrowful and serious" Gulf war.

Chnoupek had talks yesterday with the deputy premier and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed on the Gulf war, the Palestinian situation and the crisis in Lebanon.

Shaykh Sabah said the two sides held identical views on these issues and other developments in Europe and the Middle East which had an impact on world peace and security.

He hailed the stand of socialist bloc countries towards the Palestinian problem.

The two officials also discussed bilateral relations and agreed on the need to exchange visits at all levels.

Chnoupek was received yesterday by HH the Amir, to whom he renewed an earlier invitation to visit Prague.

Today, Chnoupek is to visit the governor of Ahmad, Shaykh Jabir al-'Abdullah, and tour the Kuwait Oil Company [KOC] exhibition before attending a lunch hosted in his honour by KOC.

He is due to leave Kuwait this evening for South Yemen.

UAE

Agreement With U.S. on Military Facilities Expected

GF171334 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 16 Apr 85 p 1

[Excerpt] *AL-WATAN* has learned from reliable sources in the UAE that an agreement between one of the UAE emirates and the United States is expected to be signed soon. The agreement will provide facilities for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces in this emirate.

It is not yet known whether this agreement will be signed with the knowledge of the central government in Abu Dhabi or if it is the responsibility of the government of the named emirate.

Diplomatic sources close to *AL-WATAN* in Abu Dhabi said that this signing will lead to acute political differences and perhaps will stir regional conflicts.

It is known that the UAE is one of the countries that frankly announces its rejection of all military agreements and facilities to foreign countries. No information is available to conform or deny the presence of facilities or foreign bases in this country.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Appeals to Lebanese To Curb Violence

LD172254 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2211 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] 17 Apr (SPA) – Riyadh, the royal court this evening, Wednesday 17 April, issued the following statement:

In the past hours this evening, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received several telephone calls and appeals from some Palestinian and Lebanese leaders; they appealed to his majesty to exert urgent efforts to stop the constant and unfair aggressions against the Palestinian refugee camps and the sons of the Lebanese people in the south and to curb the excesses that are committed by some armed elements against the citizens of west Beirut.

Therefore, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, while following the news of this bloody tragedy with great pain and starting from his majesty's appreciation of his Arab and Islamic responsibilities, appeals to the Lebanese authorities and the effective leaders at various levels to work immediately to stop these aggressions and curb these aggressive practices that are currently taking place in Beirut, in order to preserve the lives, honor, and property of innocent Lebanese citizens.

His majesty also appeals to all conflicting Lebanese elements to remove their disputes and confront the arrogant enemy in one solid line in order to defend their country, honor, and nation and in order to preserve the unity of their land and people until they achieve victory. Victory is from God.

Defense Minister Meets With U.S. Joint Staff Chief

LD172308 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2230 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] This evening His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general received General John Vessey, chief of the U.S. joint staff, who is currently visiting the Kingdom at the invitation of Staff General Muhammad al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff. During the meeting they reviewed issues of joint interest. At the end of the meeting, Prince Sultan awarded the guest the King 'Abd al-'Aziz Medal - Second Class.

The meeting was attended by Prince Bandar ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his majesty's ambassador to Washington.

Trade Official Condemns U.S. Protectionist Measures

PM171048 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
15 Apr 85 p 4

[Munir Nasir report: "Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Zamil: We Are Trying To Convince the Americans of the Damages Caused by Trade Protectionism and the Blocking of Saudi Petrochemical Exports"]

[Excerpt] Washington — Saudi Trade Under Secretary Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Zamil said during his visit to the United States at the head of a delegation of Saudi businessmen that he hopes to convince the U.S. Administration that protectionist measures against foreign products will only have negative rather than positive effects. Al-Zamil said that the attempt by some U.S. congressmen to submit a bill to impose customs duties on foreign products manufactured from natural raw materials, including petrochemicals, represents a negative development; Saudi Arabia does not believe that this would be a healthy sign because it affects trade between the two countries and always leads to adverse effects on the economic relations between them.

Al-Zamil said the manufacture of Saudi petrochemicals is being carried out by companies in which the Americans have an interest and, therefore, it is not in their interest to place such obstacles in the way of Saudi petrochemical products.

Dr al-Zamil said that Saudi Arabia exported more than 10,000 tons of metal pipes to the United States last year and this figure is expected to increase to 17,000 tons this year. He stressed that the Saudi private sector "is very vital and is interested in exporting to the U.S. market. It has been highly competitive with certain U.S. products."

Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD172328 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Jeddah, 17 Apr (SPA) — Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Beji Caid es-Sebsi arrived in Jeddah this evening on a visit to the Kingdom that will continue for several days.

He was received at the airport by the director general of the Foreign Ministry and protocol in the Western Region, Salim Sunbul; the Tunisian ambassador to the Kingdom, Kacem Boussnina and a number of officials.

In a statement to SPA on his arrival, the Tunisian foreign minister said that his visit to the Kingdom comes in response to an invitation from His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs. He pointed out that he is carrying a message to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from his excellency the Tunisian president, Habib Bourguiba.

At the end of his statement, Es-Sebsi expressed the greetings and respects of Tunisia, the president, government, and people to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the king, government, and people, and expressed his hopes that his visit to the Kingdom will be a good occasion.

PDRY

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Receives Polish Delegation

GF171444 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Today Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received at his office the delegation of the Polish United Workers Party [PZPR] led by Comrade Marian Orzechowski, candidate member of the PZPR Politburo. He conveyed a verbal message to Chairman 'Ali from Comrade Wojciech Jaruzelski, general secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

During the meeting, Chairman 'Ali welcomed the Polish delegation and said that its visit to our country will contribute toward bolstering the existing friendship ties between the YSP and the PZPR, and the governments and people of the two friendly countries. He expressed satisfaction over the extensive development in the cooperative and friendly relations between Poland and the PDRY. He stressed that cooperation between the two friendly countries and parties will continue developing in the interest of the two countries and the issues of joint struggle by our peoples for social progress, peace, democracy, and socialism.

Comrade Orzechowski expressed his pleasure in meeting Chairman 'Ali and visiting the PDRY. He said that he will return to Poland with good impressions of developments and successes that have been and are being achieved by the YSP and its leadership in the interest of the Yemeni people and through performing the tasks drawn up by the party, aimed at progress in the country. He pointed out that the Yemeni-Polish friendship has witnessed a positive development. He referred to the visit by Chairman 'Ali to Poland in November 1984 and his discussions with General Jaruzelski and said that they opened new horizons for cooperation between the parties and peoples of the two friendly countries.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues of common concern to the two friendly countries and reviewed and exchanged ideas on the Arab and international situations.

The meeting was also attended by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; and Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'id [name as heard], member of the Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Control Committee, and chairman of the Yemeni-Polish Friendship Society.

CSSR Foreign Minister, Delegation Visit Aden

Talks Begin

GF171704 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpt] The first session of the official and cordial talks between our country and the CSSR began at the Foreign Ministry today. Our country's delegation was led by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, and the CSSR delegation was led by Comrade Bohuslav Chnoupek, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and CSSR foreign minister. The discussions concerned friendship and cooperation ties between the PDRY and the CSSR and the most important Arab and international developments. At the beginning of the meeting, Brother al-Dali and Comrade Chnoupek exchanged warm cordial words that expressed that this visit will represent an important step toward strengthening the friendship and cooperation ties between the PDRY and the CSSR.

Received by Al-'Attas

GF171706 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received Comrade Bohuslav Chnoupek, member of the Communist Party of Czechoslavia and CSSR foreign minister. During the meeting, the latest developments of the international and Arab situations were discussed. They also discussed relations between the two friendly countries and the horizons for developing them.

Brother al-'Attas expressed satisfaction over the growth and development of bilateral relations in all fields. He pointed out that friendship and cooperation ties between the two friendly countries will strengthen and develop extensively on the basis of the friendship and cooperation treaty signed by the two friendly countries.

Comrade Chnoupek expressed pleasure in visiting the PDRY and satisfaction over the growing development of bilateral relations in various fields.

The meeting was also attended by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; Taha Ahmad Ghanim, our country's ambassador in Prague; and Jan Martinek, CSSR ambassador in Aden.

U.S. Envoy Murphy Arrives in Cairo 17 Apr

NC171214 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1206 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA) — Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, arrived in Cairo from Israel at noon today on a 3-day visit to Egypt. The U.S. official declined to make any statement to journalists. Murphy's visit to Cairo is part of a tour of the area that has already covered Jordan and Syria.

Meets With Mubarak

NC171723 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middel Eastern affairs and his accompanying delegation, who are currently on a tour of some countries in the region. The meeting was attended by Nicholas Veliotes, U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

Further on Israel's Weizman Visit to Cairo

Received by Abu Ghazalah

NC171129 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA) — This morning Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, received Israeli Minister of State 'Ezer Weizman in his office. During the meeting, they exchanged views on issues of mutual concern. Weizman arrived in Cairo on Monday.

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC171315 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Following his meeting today with Israeli Minister of State 'Ezer Weizman, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that during the meeting they reviewed bilateral relations and the Tabah problem. He said that it was a good opportunity to exchange views. He expressed the hope that the meeting will lead to further understanding and solving the problems between the two countries.

Weizman said that the talks were useful, and that he is optimistic about the future.

Nigerian Presidential Envoy Visits Cairo

Received by Mubarak

NC171642 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received (Kazuri), a Nigerian presidential envoy, today. The meeting was also attended by the Nigerian ambassador to Egypt. After the meeting, the Nigerian envoy said he delivered two messages, one verbal and the other written, to President Mubarak. The messages came from the Nigerian president, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. They concern the candidacy of Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, for the post of UN high commissioner for refugees. They also discussed the Middle East, as well as Egypt's role there and in Africa.

Departs Cairo

NC180828 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0812 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA) — (Robert Kazuri), envoy of Nigerian President Major General Muhammadu Buhari, left Cairo this morning after a 3-day visit. During the visit, the Nigerian envoy delivered a message to President Mubarak from Nigerian President Buhari regarding the candidacy of Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, for the post of UN high commissioner for refugees.

Reportage on PLO Committee Meetings in Baghdad

Executive Committee Meetings Begin

JN171121 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA) — The PLO Executive Committee meetings began here today under Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, told INA that during the meetings the PLO will draw up plans for future moves in light of the recent developments of the Palestine question. Abu Jihad said that the meetings will also focus on financial and administrative issues and PLO offices abroad. He added that the Fatah Central Committee meetings, which were concluded here at dawn today, resulted in a comprehensive analytical study being drawn up on the future Arab and international Palestinian move.

Saddam Receives Palestinian Leaders

JN171353 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received the Palestinian leadership here today. President Saddam Husayn asserted to the Palestinian leadership Iraq's complete support for the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and its readiness to offer all means of support to regain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. His excellency also asserted that Iraq, which is fighting the Iranian aggression, considers any defense of the territory, sovereignty, and dignity an achievement that serves the Arab nation and helps it to overcome the weakness that the enemy exploits to harm our nation. President Saddam Husayn stressed that the Palestinian leadership's agreement on a program that is based on understanding through fraternal and democratic dialogue and through strengthening the ties of the leadership with the Palestinian masses is a guarantee for remaining steadfast in the face of the schemes aimed against the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their rights regardless of time and sacrifices.

Regarding the Iranian aggression, President Saddam Husayn asserted the firmness of the Iraqi front and the readiness of the Iraqi people and Army to destroy any new aggression against Iraq's territory and sovereignty. He also asserted Iraq's firm call for a comprehensive, just, and honorable solution to the conflict.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, and the Palestinian leaders expressed their happiness at meeting President Saddam Husayn, as well as their appreciation for and pride in the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and Army in the face of aggression and for linking the struggle waged by the Iraqi people to the just struggle waged by the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. They also expressed their appreciation for Iraq's principled and firm support for the PLO.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the secretary of the president; the chief and members of the liberation movements bureau at the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command; and Palestinian leaders.

Saddam Visits 'Arafat's Residence

JN171812 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn visited Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] at his residence in Baghdad this morning. During the meeting, which was attended by the members of the PLO Executive Committee, the Fatah Central Committee, and PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, they reviewed various developments in the Arab and international arenas. They also discussed the strong relations between the Iraqi and the Palestinian sides and ways of promoting them in the service of our Arab nation.

Al-Surani on Gulf War

JN171921 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani has stressed that Iraq's victory over the Iranian aggressors is a victory for the Arab nation and the Palestine question. In a statement to INA, he said that the only party that benefits from the Iranian regime's insistence on continuing the war and rejecting the peace calls is Zionism and imperialism. He also pointed out that the PLO meetings are welcomed by Iraq despite its preoccupation with the war.

In the name of the Palestinian leadership, Al-Surani also greeted the glorious Iraqi people's victories under leader President Saddam Husayn over the aggressive Iranians who invade Iraqi territories. He stressed that Iraq's victory is imminent and that Iraq will play its pan-Arab role in confronting Zionism and imperialism. He also affirmed that the conflict with Zionism is a conflict for existence and not a conflict over borders and that Zionism with all its weapons will not be able to destroy the PLO and its legitimate leadership despite acts of killing, terrorism, and torture that Zionism is practicing against the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and in southern Lebanon.

Regarding the PLO Executive Committee meetings that began in Baghdad today, Al-Surani said that the committee will discuss the state of fragmentation in the Arab homeland and the Iraqi-Iranian war, as well as the dangers that are threatening the PLO and the attempts to end the Palestinian existence and resistance.

Baghdad Meetings Conclude

JN171822 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Under brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Executive Committee, the Fatah Central Committee, and the PNC chairmanship last night concluded their intensive meetings, which began in Baghdad 2 days ago. The joint meetings adopted decisions regarding the developments in the Arab and international arenas. The Palestinian leadership decided to form a joint delegation from the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee to visit Jordan in order to continue the dialogue with the Jordanian Government.

Executive Committee Issues Statement

JN171810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1654 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA) — PLO Executive Committee meetings that began here early today ended in Baghdad tonight. A final statement said that what is going on in Beirut indicates the beginning of a new phase of an Israeli-U.S. plot to end the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The committee warned that the plot against the Arab people of Palestine and Lebanon, rgardless of who is implementing it, confirms the seriousness, comprehensiveness, and aims of the conspiracy. The PLO Executive Committee appealed to the Palestinian masses and the Lebanese nationalist forces to confront this criminal conspiracy in which some Arabs are involved. The committee expressed its trust in its comrades who share with it the trench and the fate in the continuous confrontation of the Zionist enemy and its plots and in facing the balkanization and sectarian divisions. The committee said that it is confident that these forces, through their nationalist, pan-Arab, and religious stands, will side with our people in the Palestinian camps in their current plight.

The PLO Executive Committee held those who participate in implementing this conspiracy are responsible for the consequences and appealed to the Arab masses and their leaders to confront it.

'Arafat Meets Party Official

JN180928 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA) — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, met with Dr 'Abd al-Majid al-Rafi'i, Ba'th Party National Command member and secretary of the Ba'th Party Regional Command in Lebanon, here last night. The two sides reviewed the situation in the Lebanese arena in light of the recent escalation of events and Arab issues, particularly those dealing with the Palestinian cause.

PNC Speaker Meets Official

JN180957 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA) — Baha' al-Din Ahmad, Iraqi National Assembly deputy speaker, met with PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih here today. The two sides discussed relations between the two councils and ways of promoting parliamentary cooperation on the Arab and international level. They also reviewed the nature of the two councils' tasks as well as that of their permanent committees. The meeting was attended by PNC Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, PNC member Muhammad Milhim, and Iraqi National Assembly members.

'Arafat Leaves Baghdad

JN180929 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad for New Delhi today after presiding over joint meetings of the Palestinian command which ended here yesterday. The meetings lasted 3 days. 'Arafat was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO office in Baghdad. 'Arafat will participate .n the ceremony nonaligned countries will hold in New Delhi tomorrow in support of the Namibian people's struggle.

PLO Delegation Leaves Baghdad

JN180951 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0932 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA) — A PLO delegation left for Amman a short while ago to meet with Jordanian King Husayn. A Palestinian source told INA that the delegation will brief King Husayn on the results of the meetings of the Palestinian command which ended here yesterday. These meetings discussed developments of the Palestinian situation in detail and the future Palestinian-Jordanian joint move in the international arena for seeking a just and honorable solution to the Palestinian cause. The delegation, formed after the joint meetings of the Palestinian command, comprises PLO Executive Committee members Muhammad Milhim and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Fatah Central Committee members Hani al-Hasan and Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, also known as Abu al-Hawl.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,807

JN171644 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Communique No 1,807 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 April 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces are embodying the great Iraqi people's will through further victories over the defeated enemy forces on land, at sea, and in the air, affirming to the ignorant Iranian rulers that certain death will be the lot of all those who try to desecrate the chaste Iraqi soil.

The following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. In implementation of our measures of imposing a siege on Iranian oil resources, our heroic Air Force launched a raid on a very large maritime target near Khark Island at 2300 [1900 GMT] yesterday. Having scored an accurate hit on their target, the Air Force eagles returned safely to base.

2. Our courageous Air Force continued to pursue defeated enemy remnants, pound their positions, and destroy their equipment in the East Tigris operational sector. In 170 combat missions today, our Air Force wrought death and destruction among enemy forces and returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Complementing our Air Force activities, our Army helicopter gunships continued their successful attacks on enemy positions and equipment opposite our forces in the East Tigris and Maysan operational sectors, scoring violent, destructive hits. In 24 com-

bat missions, our helicopters inflicted the following losses on enemy forces:

a. Two boats destroyed and occupants killed.
b. Ten infantry positions destroyed.
c. Ten personnel shelters destroyed.
d. Two wooden towers destroyed and those manning them killed.
e. One (?Doska) machinegun and another medium machinegun destroyed.
f. One floating platform carrying a medium machinegun destroyed.

4. Three enemy planes attempted to penetrate our international border in the heroic III Army Corps sector at 0715 on 16 April 1985. Our brave ground resistance men intercepted the planes and shot down one of them, an F-5, which was seen falling in flames opposite our positions. The others fled without realizing their objectives.

5. Two enemy men were killed and one machinegun emplacement and one infantry position were destroyed in the central and northern sectors.

6. One hardware stockpile and one antiaircraft machinegun were destroyed in the East Basra and Maysan sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 April 1985

Communique No 1,808

JN181634 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Communique No 1,808 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 April 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their heroic confrontation of the defeated Khomeyniite remnants, inflicting massive losses in lives and equipment on them and lying in wait for Iraq's enemies in order to give them the destruction they deserve.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. The heroic sky hawks continued their sorties over the heads of the enemy, destroying them, tearing up their remnants, and turning their equipment into burning debris. After carrying out 159 combat missions in the operational sectors east of Basra and east of Tigris, Iraq's hawks returned safe and triumphant, praise be to God.

2. Formations of our bold helicopter gunships attacked several enemy targets in the operational area east of Basra, east of Tigris, and Maysan, scoring direct hits and inflicting the following human and material losses in 30 combat missions: eight infantry positions and five boats carrying personnel, two of which were large; the destruction of one observation post, killing its personnel; and the pounding and destruction of several enemy troops gatherings. The heroic cavaliers of the helicopters returned to base safe and triumphant, praise be to God.

3. Our forward units opened artillery fire on the enemy concentrations, artillery emplacements, and vehicles in the operational sector east of Basra, destroying one vehicle, one bulldozer, one raft, two infantry positions, and one steel tower, and burning one hardware stockpile.

4. Our forward units pounded the enemy positions, weapon emplacements, and all of its equipment opposite our positions in the operational theater east of Tigris and Maysan, inflicting large losses. Our units also destroyed two enemy infantry positions, killing their occupants; destroyed one large boat and one heavy machinegun; and burned one hardware stockpile. Flames and explosions were seen on the enemy side.

5. Two infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants killed in the central and northern sectors of the operational theater.

6. The spiteful enemy shelled Mandali with heavy artillery.

7. Fleeing the tyranny of the unjust Iranian clique, fresh groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units in the battlefronts. An Iranian family of 12 also sought refuge with our units. They were all safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 April 1985

Al-Rifa'i Delivers Government Policy Statement

JN171323 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1141 GMT 17 Apr 85

["Text" of government policy statement delivered by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at the House of Representatives session on 17 April — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

His Excellency the Speaker of the House of Representatives, esteemed House members. On behalf of the Cabinet, which His Majesty King Husayn, may God support him, has entrusted me to form, I greet your esteemed House and I submit the policy statement according to which I ask for your vote of confidence. My government has the honor to extend to the exalted office of His Majesty King Husayn lavish thanks and sincere feelings of love and loyalty for the trust he placed in us when he asked us to assume the responsibility of government under his benevolent wing. We ask Almighty God to preserve his majesty and to assist him in his assiduous search and persistent work to serve the beloved homeland and the noble people.

In assuming the responsibility of government, the government trusts in God and is aware of the burdens it has to shoulder and the heavy responsibilities it has to assume. To achieve this, the government depends on cooperation with your esteemed House, a sincere cooperation which is reflected in the formation of this Cabinet which comprises several House members and contains a new ministerial portfolio for parliamentary affairs.

When we give special attention to the question of cooperation between the executive and legislative branches through consultations and the exchange of viewpoints, we believe that the government must interact with the citizens, whether they are individuals or groups, in the sphere of public service in order to entrench the pillars of national unity among all in the one Jordanian family. The government is extremely interested in taking care of the citizen, given that he is the basis in the structure of society and the people. The government will work to secure a dignified life for him and to provide him with the services and guarantees to which he is entitled. It will tend to his interests and will safeguard his stability and security. The citizen has a right to live as a free man, reassured, free of fear, anxiety, and domination. He must be free to express his opinion and beliefs. He must also be free to exercise the work he wants to perform as long as this freedom is a freedom of one who is responsible and committed to the welfare of his nation and the interest of his homeland, and as long as he respects his duties toward his fellow citizens and his society, safeguards the Constitution of his country and its laws, and carries out the obligations dictated by his sound citizenship and imposed by his country's circumstances. The decent and free citizen is the one who is capable of producing, serving his nation, and building his homeland. Responsible freedom is based on commitment and the observance of the rights of the homeland and the citizens, as well as their security. It is the opposite of negligence, indiscipline, and disorder.

When the citizen's ability to exercise his rights is entrenched and his sense of freedom is deepened, he will become more aware of the requirements of the homeland's security as well as his personal security. Of these requirements are the extraordinary circumstances and the material laws that our struggle with the enemy has imposed on us. The citizen will be more aware of these requirements when the government imposes restrictions on these laws and commits itself to using them within their limits. The government should not expand them or exceed the necessary limits that concern only the state security, which should be protected against enemy schemes. The government is determined to confine itself to these laws and not to extend them further.

In this sound climate of ensuring public freedom, entrenching national unity, and spreading a sense of responsibility, the duty of the government will be to provide sound opportunities for progress and development within a framework of respect for the state and commitment to security and order at home and abroad, so that this security and order will encompass our Jordanian citizens and national establishments wherever they may be. This is in order to preserve the life and security of these citizens, protect their interests, and enable them to be an extension of their homeland and ambassadors for their country, carrying Jordan's message wherever they may live or work.

While we cannot believe that an Arab would shed the blood of another Arab, or that a citizen would kill another citizen, particularly amid the current enemy threats, it is natural to believe that this sanguinary terrorism must be of enemy making or a result of its instigation and planning, either directly or by indirect inspiration and guidance. Therefore, our resistance to this terrorism is part of our resistance to the enemy itself, which has assigned against us tools from our own people. This calls for continuing efforts to bolster our brave Armed Forces, the shield of the homeland and its protector, by continuing training and purchasing modern weapons so that these Armed Forces will remain as they have always been, carrying the banner of the great Arab revolt, and will continue the march under their supreme commander.

The great message of our Armed Forces is invaluable. No amount of money can be worth this message. All our achievements will be exposed to destruction unless they are protected by these strong, faithful arms.

The government will continue to organize the security apparatus in a comprehensive manner and will continue to feed them with able, skillful men. It will continue to modernize the work of this apparatus in order to ensure perfect action and fast performance and to protect the homeland, people, and establishments from tampering, corruption, terrorism, and aggression, and provide an atmosphere of trust, stability, and prosperity. On this occasion, I am pleased to announce that the first consignment of weapons that will be used by the popular army, and concerning which contracts were signed, has arrived in the Kingdom, and that training people to use them will begin as soon as arrangments are made for this in the near future.

In this atmosphere of trust, stability, and prosperity, the government will be able to realize its economic and financial policies in a balanced manner — a policy that is based on the principles of economic freedom, personal initiative, partnership between the public and private sector, and the Jordanian people's participation at home and abroad in all kinds of economic activity and in

picking the fruits of this activity. This policy is also based on the principle of strengthening the ties that connect the Jordanians who work abroad with their homeland and giving them further opportunities and incentives to increase their contribution in building the homeland. It is also based on the principle of joint Arab economic action, the integration of this action, and on strengthening economic ties with the outside world.

These clear bases of our economic policy call for passing financial and economic legislation that will achieve them, amending existing legislation, and simplifying administrative procedures to provide adequate incentives and to create the appropriate climate for investment. These bases also call for projecting the role of the private sector and confining the public sector to those fields that are dictated by necessity and public interest, such as ensuring basic commodities for the citizen, bolstering the means of food security for him, protecting him from exploitation and monopoly, and revising the tax system to encourage saving, investment, and exports and to attract foreign capital.

In order to achieve a balanced, comprehenisve national economy, the government should pay special attention to the agricultural sector on certain specific bases, such as preventing the erosion of agricultural resources, including soil, water, and vegetation; preserving these resources as sources of agricultural food produce; curtailing their use for nonagricultural purposes; and improving and developing these resources by organizing the use of land and water in a manner compatible with their productive capacities and environmental circumstances. Waterfalls should be fully utilized, attention should be paid to agricultural marketing, and an effort should be made to draw up a clear, long-term, agricultural policy that wins the confidence of the producer and prompts him to increase investment, double produce, and ensure a good revenue.

Agricultural research and guidance should be backed and developed and agricultural credit corporations should also be backed so they can give loans to farmers to enable them to carry out agricultural projects whose economic feasibility has been established. Agricultural produce should be linked to society's consumption and industrialization needs and the requirements of foreign markets by carrying out an agricultural program that achieves all these objectives.

The government has decided to pay the interest due in 1985 on medium and long-term agricultural development loans granted to farmers by official agricultural credit corporations and which are documented by debit bills that do not exceed 50,000 dinars, provided that the farmers pay their loan installments on time. The government has also requested the official agricultural credit corporation to consider rescheduling medium and long-term agricultural development loans due from farmers who cannot fulfill their obligations for reasons related to production and marketing, after carrying out the necessary field studies.

The government intends to make intensive efforts to prospect for our mineral resources — both oil and other minerals — by drilling 10 new wells in the Hamzah oilfield this year, expediting the exploitation and production of this oilfield, and prospecting for oil outside the Al-Azraq region. The government has begun contacts with certain international firms to prospect for oil in all parts of the Kingdom. The government has also resurrected the program of exploiting shale oil. Work will also begin soon on prospecting for other minerals.

Esteemed House members. Due to the effect of the transporation sector on the national economy, the government will exert a special effort to develop the port of Aqaba by taking effective measures to increase the volume of import and export. The government is currently studying ways to correct deficiencies in the trucks that are required for transporting goods to neighboring Arab countries, as well as problems that are facing truck transportation. The government will develop railways to increase the capacity to transport goods and passengers in order to reduce transportation costs and save fuel. The government will also implement programs to continue support for our national establishment, Alia, to enable it to continue its activity and to increase its efficiency in carrying out its duties.

The government will also establish a number of small airports in the major cities in the Kingdom and will expand its efforts to open diversions and beltways around the Kingdom's cities to reduce the problems of traffic in cities. It will also complete the opening of main highways in the Kingdom in order to serve internal and external transportation. It will also continue to open village and agricultural roads and improve them in order to serve inhabited areas, agricultural facilities, tourist sites, and areas of agricultural production in the various governorates of the Kingdom.

The government will exert its efforts to expand the housing projects, especially for low-income groups, and to speed up the implementation of the projects that have already begun. In order to control population distribution and to limit emigration from the countryside to the cities, the government will exert its efforts to complete the establishment of basic infrastructures in various areas of the Kingdom. It will take measures to expand and develop postal service centers and to introduce automatic distribution. The government will spare no effort to secure further support for the telecommunications sector in order to achieve further accomplishments and meet the demand for such services at the end of the new 5-year plan.

The government also attaches great importance to economic and social development at a time of economic recession in the region in general and in the Kingdom in particular. Therefore, the planning sector has been given a greater role in activating the economy and reorganizing the economic structure. The government will prepare the third 5-year plan from 1986-1990, and will pursue the continuation of planning. The government will also prepare long-term plans and medium-term 5-year plans to be implemented into annual plans that are closely connected to the state's general annual budget.

The government is aware that the current age is one of technology and information. Therefore, it will try its best to introduce modern technology into the Kingdom and to achieve a qualitative step in the performance of economic, cultural, and scientific sectors in this direction. As I review some economic aspects, I should touch on the state's financial situation that you know very well and on the suffering that resulted from some fraternal countries' failure to meet their commitments. The government

will hold extensive contacts with these countries to remove some of this suffering. On this occasion, the government is dutybound to express its thanks and appreciation to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for meeting their full financial commitments and for contributing to brotherhood and joint destiny.

Brother House members: The government would like to emphasize its concept of local government in our country, considering it a school to exercise democracy, dialogue, and popular participation in work and construction. This consolidates affiliation, social balance, and just distribution of the fruits of development in a manner that renders the local councils — municipalities and joint services councils — a living embodiment of administrative democracy and a basic pillar of national development. Hence, the government is obliged to emphasize in this regard that it considers the citizens' choice of their local councils through democratic elections a sacred right and duty which the government will greatly safeguard and fulfill for both the citizen and the local councils. This, however, will require serious work in order to overcome the difficulties and obstacles facing the local councils.

Brother House members, undoubtedly you realize that all the programs and aspirations I have mentioned and will mention cannot be achieved without basic reforms and comprehensive amendments of laws, regulations, formations, and practices which should provide the citizens with the flexibility and ease with which they can accomplish their jobs and meet their needs. Among the primary factors to achieve this is developing and modernizing the administration, improving its work, and raising the standard of its performance, because a developed and successful administration is the nerve that stretches out in the body of all these jobs and ambitions, giving them life, real existence, and the ability to move.

Honorable House members, the government is eager to link construction planning with the state's comprehenisve development. Therefore, it will draw up a clearly-defined general policy for city planning. This policy will not be linked with transient changes and wishes, but will be based on the integrated plan on the requirements of the society with the aim of preserving the usage of lands as fixed by relevant studies, protecting the agricultural land, and checking desertification. The government will also seek to draw up the bases required to prepare the organizational and structural plans of cities, villages, and populated areas in the hope of reaching a stage when organization precedes construction and when services precede construction, as this will curb haphazard building.

The government will also draw up a national strategy to preserve the Jordanian environment, and detailed policies to protect the environment and combat pollution in order to guarantee coordination and integration in modern construction. The sector of labor and social development occupies a major part in the government's attention in the field of economic and social development. One of the most prominent objectives we are seeking to achieve is bolstering stability in labor relations among the production parties and providing social protection and justice by improving the working conditions, expanding the umbrella of social security, improving the means of vocational safety and health, and concentrating on vocational training and preparation of workers in order to supply the positions of work and production in the various economic sectors with the hands and skills that are needed to cope with the requirements of economic growth. For this purpose, the government will crystallize clearer and more flexible employment policies that respond to the requirements and economic projects of development and that provide the necessary work opportunities. It will also modernize our social legislation, particularly the labor law, so that it will respond to the requirements of economic and social development.

The government will continue to give attention and care to our expatriates, considering them an important asset of the country's economic and social wealth.

Since the attainment and entrenchment of social security is a basic aspect of social development, it has become necessary to make a qualitative move when dealing with matters pertaining to the citizens who are less fortunate and who still live under what is called the poverty line. This is considered a source of some negative social manifestations, such as the disruption of family ties and vagrancy. The establsihment of a national fund for the social welfare of these groups will complete the brilliant picture of the Jordanian family. It will be financed from government and private sources and special care will be given to the handicapped.

Brothers , the government believes that health development is an integral part of the state's comprehensive development policy. The government will devote its attention to several issues that will enable this sector to achieve more progress and attain its objectives. The government will provide incentives to attract and keep qualified personnel, create education opportunities and continuous training, encourage studies and sound scientific research, review health laws to avoid some shortcomings, negative aspects, duplications, or conflicting responsibilities and prerogatives, and will carry out the necessary studies for a comprehensive health insurance in cooperation with the public and private health sectors.

Brother House members, out of the government's belief in the independence of the judiciary and in appreciation for the important role it plays in realizing justice and enforcing law and public order, the government is determined to adopt more steps to create the appropriate climate that will enable the judiciary to perform its noble mission. Court proceedings must be effective, speedy, and with little cost. Courts must supervise the administrative actions of the executive branch in accordance with the Constitution and must avoid rigid administrative decisions. Coordination must take place among the Ministry of Justice, the lawyers association, the faculty of law in the University of Jordan, and the economic sectors to review most of the commerical and civil laws, to encourage investment laws and laws governing free zones, and to enhance the social and financial status of the judiciary.

Brothers, the government reaffirms its belief that man is the most precious thing on earth. He is the basis of life, development, and production. The success of all government plans and programs and the achievement of all government aims in all fields depends on the correct preparation of man on sound bases. Therefore, the government will give its utmost attention to all matters pertaining to appealing to the citizens' intellect and intuition, nurturing

their souls and consciences, developing their methods of thinking and the characteristics of their personalities, and raising the standards of their culture and abilities. The foremost course to be followed in achieving all that, is of course, education at the different levels — from the lowest elementary stages to the highest university stages. Other courses are religious preaching and guidance and cultural and information media.

Since man is the means to achieve everything in life, as well as the objective of all of life's accomplishments, the government has decided to make a general revision of the school curricula, systems, programs, methods, and exams and to amend directives concerning the entrance exam to secondary school education in order to reach a balanced objective that achieves the interest of both the country and the citizen. This principle, which is based on a balanced, comprehensive view, is the one to which the government will adhere in all the improvements it seeks to achieve in the field of education. It is the principle that it will apply when revising the various forms and stages of education in order to combine the principle of permitting smooth progression from one stage of education to another and giving the individual the freedom to choose whatever type of eudcation he wishes. It is also the principle of meeting the requirements of the development plan and society's needs by providing trained technical and artistic elements for all fields of work, while controlling an indiscriminate flow in various specialized fields after the stage of basic education. This is in implementation of what was contained in the royal letter of designation.

The principle of a balanced, comprehensive view must also apply to conditions of admission and certain exam conditions, while considering the different educational and social circumstances in the different parts of the Kingdom. This calls for combining the principle of providing equal opportunities to citizens and the principle of considering the student's ability and preparedness. This also calls on the government to fully achieve compulsory education and to provide the means that will ensure the student's physical, spiritual, social, and intellectual development and enhance a true sense of national pride and the values of law and order.

The government hardly needs to affirm its awareness of the teacher's role in the success of the educational process. Therefore, it will do its utmost to raise the teacher's educational and living standards by various means. There is no doubt that the government will continue to take adequate measures to provide school buildings that meet the annual increase in the number of students. It will gradually dispense with rented buildings. The time has come to pay special attention to higher and university education to achieve a qualitative and quantitative jump on the strong basis of a clear, integrated policy — a policy that takes a wider perspective of the objectives of this education and the means of achieving them.

A strong link must be established between the policy of higher education and social and economic policies, as well as development plans and the requirements of society and production. We must ensure the highest standard possible for this education with as little expense as possible. Royal directives have been repeated on several occasions calling for pursuing sound means to achieve these objectives.

Proceeding from a clear awareness of university spirit and academic traditions, the goverment is strongly determined to bolster the universities and to provide them with real opportumities for more internal independence and self management and more freedom for scientific research, flexibility, and easy flow of university life. The government is currently busy studying various formulas in order to chose the one that is most suitable to our circumstances and society and that can achieve our objectives and meet our requirements. The government will revise the situation concerning the establishment of national universities in light of recent developments in order to provide chances for university education for those who ar qualified and to reduce the increasing numbers of students who leave for universities abroad. The government will guarantee that the national universities provide a higher standard of education by benefiting from the experiences of other countries.

We cannot speak about educating the nation and the citizens and ignore entrenching the principles and teachings of our merciful law and true religion in both mind and spirit. In order to achieve this objective, we should improve the performance of preaching and promote the efficiency of preachers and imams by preparing qualification programs and continued courses and seminars that will tackle the problems of intellectual matters and society through teaching and fruitful dialogue, as well as through scholarships, preaching camps, Shari'a colleges, institutes and schools, Holy Koran schools, and Islamic cultural centers. The curriculums and methods should be developed; we should be open to world cultures and use modern methods. We should also maintain the Islamic character against the dangers of liquidation and obliteration and keep it removed from exaggeration, fanaticism, and religious differences. We should adhere to the centrism of Islam represented by openness not obstruseness, extroversion not introversion, tolerance not hatred, and based on the method of effective presentation as God said: "Invite all to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious." [Koranic verse]

Speaking about this issue leads us to speak about other related aspects. We should work to draw up an integrated plan to exploit the Awqaf lands, to build and develop them, and to establish facilities on them. We should take care of the mosque's of the prophet's companions in order to link the people to the glorious history and to make them view their promising future and realize that the belief from which their grandfathers created symbols of the Islamic civilization can create similar symbols for them.

The government will continue to take care of Awqaf affairs and mosques in the West Bank, partiicularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, and the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque. It will also take care of the Islamic exhibition in Jerusalem, the college of religion's fundamentals, the Shari'a institutes and schools, and the orphans' schools. It will save Islamic possessions and antiquities from being seized or wasted. Regarding youth welfare, the government will continue the work to guarantee their growth under values that deepen the meaning of national dignity and within the framework of sublime social criteria that will prompt youths to offer more sacrifices.

Respected House members, the government will pay its utmost attention to cultural affairs. It will take care of the press and

those who work in this field, as well as those who work in other media organs, because it is an effective tool for national awakening and for developing a feeling of good citizenship and public discipline which are the bases of freedom and sound democratic practices. Conveying information to the people inside and outside the homeland through official and private means of mass communications is as important as checking what will be written or transmitted within the higher and basic interests of the homeland and the nation, as well as respecting facts and human minds everywhere. The objective of the Government will be to maintain the ethics and high values of the present generations. These ethics and values are the bases and components of this Kingdom and a continuation of the mission which Jordan has been shouldering with pride, dignity, and firmness.

The elements of mass communications will not be confined only to the capital and its surroundings. The government will work to extend these services to every citizen in the villages and deserts of this homeland. It will also work to build firm bridges to all our sons abroad and to achieve continued contacts with our Arab nation and the peoples in the world. The information and cultural organs will pay attention to historical and cultural sites in the Kingdom. These organs will highlight these sites and derive lessons from them. These organs will facilitate the arrival of citizens to these sites so that they will be a source of inspiration for future generations. The government will activate tourism, because it is one of the main industries in the national economy. It is also an effective way to acquaint the world with our country and with the historical features that represent human civilization throughout the prosperous ages.

Esteemed House members: Within the framework of the letter of designation, which affirmed the need for entrenching our people's steadfastness in the occupied territory and preserving the Arabism of this dear part of our homeland, the government is of the view that steadfastness can be realized by drawing up and implementing an integrated, comprehensive plan in all fields. This plan will aim at deepening the ties that bind our people there to their land, cities, villages, and to all places in which they exist. It will aim at strengthening their internal fabric so that they will be a solid block and an impregnable wall in facing the usurper, his plans, and the tyranny that he employs in order to usurp the land and expel its people.

This requires a concerted, continuous effort for developing a strong basis for agricultural and industrial production and housing, with special emphasis on activities and economic plans that would provide the greatest amount of job opportunities in order to absorb the increasing manpower and fight the unemployment that has been escalating day after day. This will also require the need to encourage citizens to rely on themselves, their national institutions, and their awareness in order to resist pressures to force them to emigrate. It will also necessitate support for public and national establishments and encouraging cooperative and private initiatives in the field of housing, educational, health, and social services and the basic utilities on which they depend.

It is only natural that realizing these aims requires, in addition to national and local efforts and resources, a large-scale Arab and international support, which the government will work to ensure and whose importance it will highlight for steadfastness' sake. It is the rightful claim of our kinfolks under the yoke of occupation — this is also our sacred duty toward them — to have us place their steadfastness at the top of our priorities with all the means and resources available to us, be they material or moral resources, and to help make their life easier amid the bitter circumstances that they are patiently experiencing, being faithful and steadfast.

Esteemed House members: As for foreign policy, the government will assume the responsibility of dealing with the tragic, unnatural conditions that have afflicted relations among fraternal Arab countries in the East and West. In taking action, we will derive guidance from the wise instructions of his majesty's letter of designation. We will work for restoring Arab solidarity and encouraging Arab dialogue in the Arab nation's interest. The government will place this target at the top of its political duties. It will strengthen fraternal ties with fraternal Egypt and coordinate joint Arab efforts to realize our nation's national security by abandoning estrangement that leads to weakness and to conceding sacred rights.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which God has endowed with the leadership of the brave king, the courageous leader Husayn ibn Talal, may God grant him glory, is carrying the inherited message of the great Arab revolt, which called for the independence and unity of the Arabs and struggled for this sublime purpose over the past many years. Jordan's call for restoring Arab solidarity is prompted by its faith in this solidarity. Jordan regards this solidarity as natural among the Arab peoples, who, among themselves, make all the elements of one nation. Moreover, this solidarity has become an urgent need. It is odd, brothers, that the Arab states should face common dangers that threaten their existence and future, and at the same time, remain divided and in conflict.

How can fragementation, disputes, feuds, and tension in Arab relations continue at a time when the Israeli aggression is digging its claws into the countries of the Arab homeland and announcing that it aims at Judaizing, swallowing up, and dominating them? How can fragmentation and dispute among brothers continue at a time when the grinding Iraqi-Iranian war, which fraternal Iraq is waging in defense of the entire Arab front, requires further Arab cohesion and a unified stand in support of Iraq in its efforts to establish peace and end the war? In this regard the government will continue to adhere to Jordan's firm stand in support of fraternal Iraq.

How can this dispute continue at a time when fraternal Lebanon is suffering from disasters and woes resulting from the Israeli occupation and at a time when the tyrannical occupation forces are pursuing innocent Lebanese people in their own country, bent on all types of eradication, oppression, destruction, and eviction? Despite all this, Arabs are still hesitant even to hold a summit meeting in order to discuss their affairs and seek ways to confront the massive dangers surrounding them on every side through understanding, solidarity, and cooperation.

Esteemed House members, we in Jordan are standing in the middle of the Arab arena and face to face with Israel. We also assume a special and distinguished responsibility toward the Palestine question. Therefore, his majesty the king has shown

interest in coordinating efforts and building cooperation and making agreements with the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative so that we can work together in order to find a just settlement to the Palestine question that will lead to an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, foremost of which is immortal Arab Jerusalem, and will secure the Palestinian Arab people's rights on the bases of UN resolutions. The responsibility for the Palestine question rests with all the Arab countries. Therefore Arab efforts should center around it and the government's efforts will be sincere, clear, and frank in this regard.

Although the responsibility for the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, called the Middle East crisis, rests with all Arab countries, the international community should also assume its responsibilities and play its full role in dealing with it. Proceeding from this principle, talks and discussions that are aimed at achieving a settlement of the Palestine question and a just solution to it on the basis of the implementation of UN resolutions should take place within a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO and permanent members of the Security Council. The Middle East problems affect negatively or positively other regions in the world, especially regions that are close to us. Therefore, the solution to these problems will not be achieved in isolation from these regions.

Thank God, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan enjoys the best of relations with all foreign countries thanks to the excellent relations the king has established with the other capitals without exception. This will encourage the government in preserving and developing this enormous asset of international prestige. The government will devote its attention to joint Arab action within the Arab League and will support the Arab League to enable it to perform its Arab duty, which imposes on it heavy responsibilities, particularly at this stage in our nation's life. The government will be concerned with strengthening relations with Islamic countries with which we are bound by religion, civilization, and history.

We will continue to enhance our close relations with nonaligned countries in order to serve peace and stability in the world. The government will also be concerned with positive cooperation based on mutual respect and common interests with European countries with which we have a long history of cooperation and mutual interests. The government also gives special care to cooperation and the entrenchment of relations with socialist bloc countries which continue to champion Arab stands and causes and whose stands on the crisis in the region are based on principles of justice and right.

Brother House members: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which God has endowed with its leader, a strategic geographic location, a noble Arab history, good citizens, and a Jordanian people who carry in their hearts pan-Arab sentiments, can effectively contribute to the Arabs' general efforts, proceeding in this from its faith in God, and from its confidence in itself and in its objectives. We must start serious work to attain all that will bring good to the citizen, the homeland, and the nation.

Brother House members, I would like to stress some of what I said at the beginning of this policy statement. I would like to point out that the government gives special care to cooperation between the executive and legislative branches through consultations and exchange of viewpoints. I would like to add here that the government, from the premise of its extreme concern over the relationship between these two branches, will be inspired by basic principles. Among these principles is the entrenchment of the meaning of cooperation between the executive and legislative branches with all means. Another one of these principles is that the government will support honorable members in the performance of their duties and in shouldering the trust the people have placed in them. The government will also be frank with your esteemed House and will keep it informed about government policy and about all the developments that may occur on the domestic, Arab, and international level so that the House may become a partner in the process of decisionmaking, be convinced of these decisions, and defend them, because these decisions will be the upshot of a constructive dialogue and a joint conviction between the executive and legislative branches.

From this premise, I wish that the esteemed House will hasten to elect the security committee it had decided to form months ago to enable the government to inform the esteemed House through this committee of the developments that may occur and of which the House must become acquainted with. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, we today ask the esteemed House for its vote of confidence on the basis of this policy statement. In my name and on behalf of my colleagues, the ministers, I would like to thank you, brother members, and to express our appreciation and respect. We ask God to assist us and grant us success. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

New Soviet Ambassador Zinchuk Arrives in Amman

JN171245 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 85 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.) — Newly-appointed Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Aleksandr Zinchuk arrived in Amman Tuesday and is expected to present his credentials to the Royal Court in the next few days. Mr. Zinchuk, whose most recent post was of the chief advisor at the Foreign Ministry, replaces Mr. Rafik Nishanov, who has been appointed foreign minister for Uzbekistan, the Soviet Union's third largest republic. Mr. Zinchuk, 60, held the post of general consul in San Francisco in the U.S. for nine years, before which he held a senior post at his country's embassy in Washington D.C. The new ambassador, who started his diplomatic career in the early 60s, speaks good English and French. He is married and has two children.

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Asad Conduct 'Lengthy Conversation'

NC171456 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpts] President Amin al-Jumayyil has been following developments in West Beirut since last night. As of this morning, he was in touch with security officers and political leaders to deal with the situation in order to restore calm and end the bloodshed.

President al-Jumayyil held a lengthy conversation over the phone with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He briefed him on recent developments and reactions to them. The two presidents then made a detailed review of the situation. They agreed to face the situation in a wise and responsible way. They also promised to stay in touch in order to deal with events. President al-Jumayyil then contacted Prime Minister Karami and discussed the situation with him. They agreed that the Cabinet would continue to serve in a caretaker role until the government crisis is resolved.

The president also contacted His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic, and conducted a review of recent developments. He emphasized the need for leaders to assume their responsibilities and to use wisdom in addressing the situation. The president also chaired a security meeting attended by the Army commander, General Michel 'Awn; Director of Intelligence Colonel Simon Qassis; Colonel Nabih Farhat, deputy director of intelligence; and Director of Operations Colonel Jean Farah. Their talks dealt with the military situation and events in West Beirut.

Al-Jumayyil Yet To Accept Karami Resignation

NC171839 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Informed sources noted this evening that President Amin al-Jumayyil has postponed the broadcast of the message he intended to address to the Lebanese people. He did so in light of the new situation that arose after the incidents on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Those incidents led to the prime minister's resignation. The sources said his excellency the president has not yet decided whether to accept or reject this resignation. He only took note of the prime minister's statement to him expressing his willingness to continue running the affairs of government as a caretaker. According to these sources, President al-Jumayyil is currently holding a broad series of contacts with various parties to determine what measures and steps should be taken to deal with the situation.

Karami Meets With Former Prime Ministers

NC181258 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami and a number of former prime ministers met at the mufti's office today. The conferees discussed developments in West Beirut in an attempt to adopt a position on the situation. During the meeting Prime Minister Karami was asked whether he is going to visit Damascus. He replied: We will see. It has been learned that Karami will leave for Damascus at 1500.

A statement was issued following the meeting which says that the current stage is extremely serious and delicate and requires further understanding on the part of the citizens for the sake of Lebanon's salvation and safety. The statement adds that it is regrettable that the bloody events in Beirut, which endangered the lives of its sons, have deviated from the salvation march which is needed today more than ever before. The statement also says that the citizens in West Beirut will determinedly confront the abnormal practices and will continuously work to strengthen Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty. The statement notes that the events in Beirut are bound to obstruct the salvation march. The statement strongly denounces and condemns such acts.

Birri Comments on 'Nightmare' in West Beirut

NC171259 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1143 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Commenting on recent events, Minister Nabih Birri made the following statement:

What happened yesterday and today is a nightmare that we did not expect. When the mullah event [not further identified] took place yesterday evening, we were under the illusion that what happened could be dealt with like scores of other previous regrettable incidents. We now know, however, that another uprising was prepared by Arab hands, who benefitted from idelogical views and from newcomers, foreigners, and guests in Beirut. These guests have had the honor of participating in the liberation of Beirut from the 17 May henchmen and the Israeli agents. Can these people be considered guests if they belong to a certain creed or come from Iqlim [al-Kharrub] for instance? Can foreigners be considered guests if they belong to another creed and come from another area?

A general attack was launched yesterday despite the honest demands that were backed militarily for the closure of the Amal movement offices, despite prompt agreement to attend a meeting called for by his eminence the mufti of the Republic, and despite our approval of the text of the statement he proposed. This attack did not spare homes or businesses. It is well known who will benefit from this situation. Their position is known in the suburbs of Sidon and in the south.

I believe that the goal is to create obstacles for the Lebanese national resistance, whether in Beirut or Sidon. I believe that no one will forget Sidon and the need to pool all our resources against the Israeli enemy. I do not believe that the Amal movement has defaulted in this respect. It appears that the Amal movement is being punished because it has not given up its fight. I want to reaffirm that Beirut is my hometown, my capital, and my national motto. We will not accept cantons that define our identities whether we are foreigners or citizens.

This sectarianism, which has been implanted in our political system, has now reached the danger point within each sect. Let us all fear God and realize that this attempt to carry out the uprising came on the eve of the call for a meeting of national parties and forces to study the situation, particularly the security situation in West Beirut, about which everyone without exception

is concerned. This call for the meeting caused those who create chaos to quicken their pace and it caused all that has happened. This is a fact. Let them know that we will not accept a return to the situation that prevailed before 6 March. We will not allow West Beirut to be singled out as Sidon has been singled out. This would again put us at the mercy of Israel and its collaborators. One look at all that Sidon is suffering at the hands of the Lebanese Forces makes it clear what Beirut will encounter as a result of differences among the national and Islamic forces.

Asked about the Cabinet resignation, Birri said: The resignation may have taken place in denunciation of the attack on the home of a certain minister. Minister Birri received a telephone call from Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam who was briefed on the situation in Beirut and the tragic developments. He also received a call from Islamic Unification Movement leader Sa'id Sha'ban.

Junblatt Says Karami Resigned, Not Cabinet

NC171901 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt was asked about Prime Minister Karami's announcement that his Cabinet has resigned. Junblatt said: It is Prime Minister Karami who resigned, not us. I will discuss with Minister Birri the possibility that the prime minister may be changed and that we may resume attending Cabinet meetings.

Reportage on Formation of New National Command

Possibility of Formation Studied

NC171936 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Efforts are now being made to form nationalist committees to monitor the situation and keep it under control. Their members will be drawn from the Amal movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and other nationalist parties. The National Democratic Front held a meeting this afternoon under the chairmanship of Walid Junblatt. The following members were also present: 'Asim Qansu, George Hawi, 'Isam al-Mahayri, Mahmud 'Abd al-Khaliq, Marwan Faris, 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas, Najah Wakim, and Hasan Shalha. The meeting featured a discussion of current national events. The conferees made an in-depth study of the possibility, first raised in Damascus, of forming a higher national command to coordinate positions in light of fast-breaking events.

A delegation from the Front, led by Walid Junblatt, visited Nabih Birri tonight. The delegation includes: Marwan Hamadah; Khalid Junblatt; 'Asim Qansu; George Hawi; 'Isam al-Mahayri; Najah Wakim; Zahir al-Khatib; Hikmat al-'Id, from the Communist Action Organization; Mustafa al-Turk, from the Partisans of the Revolution Movement [harakat ansar al-thawrah]; 'Atif al-Ghadban, from the Arab Socialist Union — the Nasirite Organization; Bisharah (Jirjis), from the Popular Committees and Associations Group; Hasan Shalha, from the Arab Socialist Union; and Samir Sabbagh. The meeting, which will feature a discussion on forming a higher national command, is still in progress.

'Unified Military Command' Envisioned

NC172221 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] The meeting held at the house of Nabih Birri and attended by Walid Junblatt, the leaders and representatives of the parties of the National Democratic Front, and some national figures, ended at 2125 tonight.

The conferees issued the following statement:

In accordance with the decision made during the joint meeting of the Amal movement and the National Democratic Front in Damascus on Monday, 15 April 1985, a meeting was held in Beirut on the evening of Wednesday, 17 April 1985, by the following Lebanese national forces: The Amal movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, the Lebanese Communist Party, the Syrian Nationalist Social Party, the Workers League, the Communist Party Organization, the Forces of the Arab Revolution, the Movement of the Partisans of the Revolution, the Nasirite Revolutionary Organization, the Communist Action Organization, the 6 February Uprising Movement, the Arab Socialist Union, the Independent National Lebanese Grouping, the Popular Committees and Associations, the Arab Socialist Union — the Nasirite Organization, and the Arab Democratic Party.

The meeting was cochaired by Ministers Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri. It was attended by the leaders and commanders of the aforementioned forces, and by military and security officials. The conferees deliberated on the various current political, military, and security affairs, especially those related to urgent matters. They also studied the fateful challenges on the Lebanese arena as a result of the developments in the areas under Phalangist control and Israeli influence, as well as the new developments in Beirut, which constitute a plot to strike at the national ranks and their procession during the most crucial phases of the struggle and confrontation with the Israeli enemy and his tools. The conferees adopted a series of political, military, and security resolutions and approved a series of urgent measures:

1. To view what took place in Beirut recently, and on the eve of this national meeting, which is dedicated to (?utilizing) our nation's military, security, and political resources, as something suspect and as something we reject. It contradicts the aspirations and hopes of the Lebanese people, who seek complete liberation and democratic reform. We also view these events as an attempt to abort unified national action.

2. To mobilize our nation's political and military capabilities and to declare a state of maximum alert to complete the process of liberation being conducted by the Lebanese national resistance forces in the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya. We also view the battle for the defense of Sidon as a fundamental extension of the fight for overall liberation and for frustrating the Zionist plan for partition. On this basis, we have decided to mobilize all forces to repel the aggression against the capital of the south and to decide the battle in favor of Lebanon's unitary Arab option. We also make this decision to thwart the division

of our people along religious and or sectarian lines. This will preserve the example of the south as a basis for coexistence and total national fusion.

3. To establish national bodies for deterrence. They will maintain and safeguard the march toward liberation through the formation of a unified military command with an operations room and a joint strike force. They will also have an office to deal with the public's problems and field their complaints. These measures will be implemented in coordination with the Army's nationalist units and those in the internal security forces. These bodies will act immediately and firmly to confront any offense against security and our people. This will allow the national effort to be devoted to facing these fateful challenges.

4. To consider the security of Palestinian camps as part of Lebanon's national security. It will be dealt with on this basis and in accordance with national and pan-Arab principles.

5. To continue efforts to form the higher political command for national action. This will be done on the basis of confronting Israel's occupation and the partitionist plan associated with it. It will also confront the Israeli occupier's reactionary and fascist tools inside and outside the administration. It will allow us to stand firmly in the face of any attempt to divide the ranks of the Lebanese people and to classify them according to sect, creed, tribe, or area. We regard the fight for liberation and reform as the sole criterion of patriotism.

300-Man 'Striking Force' Planned

NC'80755 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami will leave for Damascus today for talks with Syrian officials on current developments.

In another development, the Amal movement and the socialists have decided to form a unified military command that will include an operations room, a 300-man striking force, and an office to handle the citizens' complaints. It has been learned that the striking force will be equally shared — 100 men each — by the Amal movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and other parties.

An Amal delegation, comprising Haytham Jum'ah and Ghassan Tibyani, will leave for Damascus today to brief Syrian officials on the agreement reached among the parties in West Beirut yesterday.

LE MATIN Interviews Druze Leader Walid Junblatt

PM181050 Paris LE MATIN in French 15 Apr 85 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Druze leader Walid Junblatt by Sophie Jacquin — date and place not given]

[Text] *LE MATIN*: What are the origins of the Lebanese war?

Walid Junblatt: The Palestinian presence was, in general, a catalyst for the Lebanese left which led to the current civil war, the original causes of which are social. The Lebanese bourgeoisie installed somewhere in B'abda or in luxury apartments in Paris played on confessional issues, and that is still the situation.

LE MATIN: What is your view of the present situation?

Walid Junblatt: I fear for the south. I am afraid that everybody will allow themselves to be drawn into war willingly or unwillingly. The signs are bad in Sidon. This may spread. It is obvious that the Israelis have brought in the Lebanese Forces (unified Christian militia) and forced them to fight this battle. And we are now faced with a fait accompli. I am prepared to accept the return of the dissident Palestinian fighters. It is no secret to anybody that they fought with me. We have fought together since the war in the mountains. The essential thing is to prevent a repetition of Sabra and Shatila — the massacre which the Phalangists want to perpetrate and which, of course, their Israeli boss wishes to commit.

LE MATIN: How can you belong to a government and at the same time lay into it tooth and nail?

Walid Junblatt: I did not choose to be a member of this government. I put forward a slogan at one time: It was to shoot Amin al-Jumayyil. There was the ridiculous Lausanne compromise which did not solve anything. People thought this government could establish a minimum of national consensus and peace. Al-Jumayyil was not prepared for that. He missed another opportunity. If I attended Cabinet meetings it would not change anything. It is a dialogue between deaf people. Moreover, I do not like attending them.

LE MATIN: Do you intend to resign?

Walid Junblatt: Yes, perhaps, one of these days.

LE MATIN: Are you giving Al-Jumayyil a chance?

Walid Junblatt: I cannot give him anything. I can only protect my people. His so-called reforms are minimal and stupid. They do not provide any solution. Al-Jumayyil has managed to gain no one's confidence. This is incredible. I do not know how he managed it.

LE MATIN: Does Damascus want Al-Jumayyil to stay?

Walid Junblatt: Damascus wants Lebanon not to be a hostile stronghold and a base for sabotaging its interests. We understand this policy.

If Amin al-Jumayyil can pacify Lebanon with Syria's help, why not? He tried to do the opposite with the agreement of 17 May 1983 and was defeated.

LE MATIN: What is the state of your relations with Damascus?

Walid Junblatt: Damascus is trying to establish its peace with our help. An attempt will be made to draw up a new strategy to impede the Israelis and Americans. Any method is a good one.

What is called terrorism is in fact legitimate defense, but I will not reveal my plans.

LE MATIN: Does Syria not have interests which conflict with Lebanon's independence?

Walid Junblatt: Lebanon's independence is a creation of the French mandate. Lebanon did not exist in 1943. It is the result of the famous imperialist Sykes-Picot agreements.

LE MATIN: Would you be in favor of a big Arab state including Lebanon and Israel?

Walid Junblat: Certainly. I am a unionist by nature and by definition I am an Arab. I regard myself as an ally of the Syrians.

LE MATIN: Who is behind Islamic Jihad?

Walid Junblatt: I have no idea. God bless them.

LE MATIN: And yet your aims for a secular state are diametrically opposed to theirs.

Walid Junblatt: I regard Islamic Jihad's action as political action. I approve of their action against American imperialism. The target is America and Israel. We will see how the new Lebanon emerges later. They may win the game. That will mean I have lost. It will be necessary to accept defeat one of these days. I would not like Lebanon to become an Islamic state, because I am in favor of safeguarding plurality, but at the same time we belong to the Arab and Islamic world.

LE MATIN: What kind of relations do you have with the USSR?

Walid Junblatt: I have close and good relations with it. I have weapons thanks to my friend Al-Qadhdhafi. He is a good man, he is charming.

LE MATIN: What do you think the solution would be?

Walid Junblatt: To unite all the Arabs.

LE MATIN: You are not always very friendly with each other.

Walid Junblatt: This is a new Crusade. The first lasted 300 years and the Crusaders were thrown into the sea. One of these days we will throw the Israelis into the sea. Even if it costs us a third world war.

LE MATIN: Meanwhile, your disagreements cost you dear.

Walid Junblatt: Look, Syria was not very powerful in the past. It is slowly becoming a little more powerful. Look at Iran: Who would have said that it was going to explode? The shah was kicked out and that is not a bad thing. And Numayri, that petty little Sudanese king, has been kicked out, too. We are in no hurry. What does it cost us? Not much and it is sometimes profitable.

LE MATIN: Tension is mounting on the demarcation line in Beirut. Are we heading for another battle?

Walid Junblatt: This has been going on since 1975. Red lines have been established. So we go there and talk.

LE MATIN: What happened in Al-Shuwayfat when the French observer was murdered?

Walid Junblatt: That was a nasty incident. It was not a case of score-settling. I think it was something to do with a stolen jeep. And the poor man was shot.

LE MATIN: You met with the hijacker who killed somebody and injured several people last month. Why?

Walid Junblatt: I support hijacking, although I am transport minister. That man has returned to his job in airport security.

LE MATIN: Do you think the Israelis will withdraw from Lebanon completely?

Walid Junblatt: The Israelis are not leaving Lebanon, they are only pulling back a few kilometers. They will never leave. They did the same back in 1978. They pretended to leave but, in fact, after their invasion they were there protecting Sa'd Haddad. The same scenario is being performed for this second withdrawal.

This time they will have a broad area to monitor with Lahd (Footnote: Successor to Sa'd Haddad at the head of the pro-Israeli Army of Southern Lebanon) and the Phalangists. I think they will keep Jazzin by holding a corridor between Jazzin and Marj 'Uyun and an area around Sidon. We have no plan to open up a new front at present. I do not know what is going to happen. Everybody is afraid of everybody else. Everybody is a threat to everybody else. The feeling of fear stems from the failure to find a political solution. It is now pointless to talk of a national Cabinet after the events in the east (the so-called "dissidence"). The things Ja'ja' (Footnote: Samir Ja'ja', leader of the dissidents in the Christian camp, became the Lebanese Forces' new strongman on 22 March after his appointment as chief of staff of the Christian militia) has always been suspected of saying are now clear. He wants to establish his own separatist Christian state. In my view this amounts to partition.

LE MATIN: What reforms do you want?

Walid Junblatt: Reforms based on a restructuring of Lebanon on the basis of confessionalism cannot be true reforms. This is because they will be temporary and, in 10 or 15 years, we will have civil war again. We really need radical reform. This means secular reform: the separation of religion from the state. And here we come up against the privileges of the clergy, be it Muslim or Christian.

LE MATIN: How is Syria going to react to Ja'ja'?

Walid Junblatt: According to Ja'ja's statements, he is a major obstacle to Syria. This is because of Ja'ja's links with Israel and America and his aspiration to create a separate state, or to defend the Christians, perhaps all the Christians in the Middle East. Ja'ja' is the last person who can claim to defend the Christians. He and Elie Hubayqah massacred so many of them.

LE MATIN: In what way is the United States an obstacle to peace?

Walid Junblatt: The United States is an obstacle and an enemy of the Arab people. We must fight it by every means at our disposal. I am not like some Arab leaders who beg for their rights from the United States. Nobody can give you your rights. You have to fight for them, in Palestine, in Sudan, everywhere.

LE MATIN: What was your view of the Jordanian-Palestinian initiative?

Walid Junblatt: It is a dialogue of the deaf. Its slogan is "land in exchange for peace." But the Palestinians have neither land nor peace. The Israelis are not withdrawing from the West Bank and "de-Zionizing" it. Quite the reverse. I can see a wave of repression and even more settlements.

LE MATIN: Do you agree with the Soviet proposal for an international conference on the Middle East?

Walid Junblatt: Yes, if it is a way of overcoming this chaos. Yes, if it means giving the Palestinians their legal rights. But there is a fundamental question: Can we have peace with the Zionist plan? Can we have peace with this plan backed by Europe and America? I think Israel is the West's forward base which can be used against the Arab countries at any time. I do not think we can make peace.

LE MATIN: But are you not in favor of recognizing Israel?

Walid Junblatt: Yes, on certain conditions: having an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza.

LE MATIN: If the Palestinians recognize Israel's right to existnce, can dialogue be established?

Walid Junblatt: No. It is a question not of dialogue but of unconditional withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinians have no concessions to make. Why should they recognize Israel? Because of a UN international charter? Because Israel is becoming increasingly extreme? We may soon have Sharon as prime minister instead of Peres. There is ultimately no difference.

LE MATIN: What have you learned in 10 years of war in the sphere of political and military tactics?

Walid Junblatt: There are constants which must be maintained. The first is Syria. It is the most important. The second is to have good relations with Arab countries. But it all depends on which Arab country it is. We must try to make them understand our viewpoint.

The Palestinians are also a constant. But it is they who have changed, not I. Unfortunately there was a crisis in the PLO. Syria did not spark off that crisis. 'Arafat went a little too far, that is all.

LE MATIN: You have not always had such a harsh attitude toward the West.

Walid Junblatt: I was one of those people who believed that Europe and what is called the West could provide a solution. I believed that before the Israeli invasion. We have seen Europe's aggressive and imperialist policy: It was a great disappointment. But it is a good thing it happened. Everything is clear to me now.

LE MATIN: Do you think you may one day be assassinated like your father?

Walid Junblatt: If you are always afraid you cannot do anything. You must therefore rely on your luck. I do not know whether I am a lucky man. There has only been one attack on me. That is enough for the time being.

PSP Source on Beirut Incidents, Karami Resignation

NC171626 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpts] An official source of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] said that the PSP, the national front parties, and the Islamic forces cannot turn a blind eye on what was contrived against the struggling Amal movement, which sacrificed many martyrs in Beirut's southern suburb and in the south, and until this moment is bearing the brunt of the merciless confrontation with Israel. The PSP, while underlining its comradeship with the Amal movement, would like to point out that:

1. The PSP categorically rejects all attempts to upset the national region and transform it into an arena for fighting among comrades and militants of the same line and cause.

2. Our alliance with the Amal movement is a strategic one. We have been united by the comradeship of arms, bloodshed, and martyrdom during the battles in the southern suburb, the mountain, and in Beirut.

3. When we joined forces with Amal yesterday to confront the infamous onslaught, it was in defense of the national and Islamic arena and its integrity, as well as in defense of West Beirut itself.

4. We understand the reasons why Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic, deplores the situation in Beirut. We perfectly appreciate his feeling and share his sorrow. What we cannot understand, however, is why he describes some of the Beirut residents as foreigners [tari'in]. We say this only in passing, and we know that this description does not fit us, the patriotic forces in Beirut, because those who sacrifice their blood to protect the capital from the Phalangist aggression, and who fight to retain the Arab orientation, freedom, and dignity of Beirut, are not foreigners. The foreigners are those who flinch from the struggle.

5. The fact that the prime minister has resigned to protest what happened — and we know that he is aware of the instigators and their aims — is, in our opinion, a formality to which we do not attach much importance. Our opinion of the government and our position toward it and toward the presidency are well-known. What bothers us is that the prime minister declined to take such a daring step in defense of Sidon and against the Phalangist

aggression on it. Today, however, the prime minister took this huge step over a small issue and in support of a handful of people well-known to him as well as their kind of allegiance.

The PSP official source concluded, saying: The legitimacy some people are trying to use as a cover is not, in our opinion, really lawful, because it has turned into a venomous and conspiratory legitimacy. The kind of legitimacy we recognize is the legitimacy of those who fight against Israel and against those aligned with Israel.

Paqraduni Comments on Government Resignation

NC180659 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Karim Baqraduni, head of the Lebanese Forces political and information department, regards the government's resignation as a natural result of its weakness to deal with the Lebanese situation. He expressed the hope that this vacuum will result in the creation of a national program for solving the Lebanese crisis and a government capable of achieving this.

Monte Carlo Interviews Al-Murabitun's Qulaylat

JN171942 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Interview with Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun, and who is now in France, by Antoine Abu Samrah, Radio Monte Carlo chief editor; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Abu Samrah] Reports from Beirut indicate that the presence of Al-Murabitun as a military force in West Beirut is almost over and that the forces of the Amal movement and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] are in control of most areas, especially after the cessation of Al-Murabitun radio. Is your information identical to ours?

[Qulaylat] This information will remain wishful thinking for those behind it. Al-Murabitun, and by that I mean the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun forces and what they represent are not new to Beirut. They are deeply-rooted. Therefore, I confidently say that this information will be disproved just as the information that circulated during the Zionist enemy's storming of Beirut. The netural observer sees the clear fact that Al-Murabitun and the institutions of the Independent Nasirite Movement have maintained an idealistic, legendary presence despite many attacks. The first attack was by the Zionist enemy on 19 September. The second attack was by the authority's Army and the Phalangists from 22 September until the Beirut uprising on 6 February. The third attack was the PSP and Zionist mercenaries backed by the Amal movement on 22 March. And now there is this attack. It has been reported that in yesterday's attack Al-Murabitun forces lost several positions. However, this will remain a limited round...

[Abu Samrah, interrupting] After this detailed review, we would like to go into some of the details. Al-Murabitun radio has stopped transmission. Do you believe that it will resume transmission or has it stopped for good?

[Qulaylat] It was announced that Al-Murabitun radio has stopped transmission due to a technical fault, resulting from a rocket hit. I declare, and bear the responsibility of this declaration, that Al-Murabitun radio is the voice of our good people. It is the voice of our human beings in Lebanon and Beirut. This voice will continue so long as our people want the continuation of this sincere, expressive voice.

[Abu Samrah] Abu Shakir [Qulaylat], there are many accusations being made against you. You are being accused, first, of having helped pro-'Arafat Palestinian elements to return to Beirut — hence the recent incidents. What is your reply to that? First, have you helped Palestinian elements return to Beirut. If the answer is in the affirmative, why?

[Qulaylat] This accusation has often been repeated. It is as if it had been fabricated by Israeli intelligence. Immediately after the 22 February operation, the PSP issued a statement saying that they carried out their treacherous attack because we allowed the Palestinians into Beirut. Later, it transpired that the combatant Palestinian people, who believe in their cause, were the ones who fought in the mountain and the suburb. They were prevented from fighting in the south — the entrance to Palestine. I am allied with the Palestinian cause. Al-Murabitun's destined role in this fateful alliance is for the sake of the liberation of Palestine, not any other territory.

[Abu Samrah] Therefore, we understand that you deny having helped pro-'Arafat Palestinians to return to West Beirut, and possibly to other areas. Do you also deny that Palestinian fighters stood by Al-Murabitun in last night's battles in West Beirut?

[Qulaylat] First of all, I and the people I represent in the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun are indisputably principally and radically opposed to Yasir 'Arafat, before and after his departure from Beirut. Regarding the support for the Palestinian forces, unfortunately 20 days ago the Amal movement and PSP issued a statement and an agreement on a fateful alliance with the Palestinian revolution groups in Beirut and all of Lebanon. They excluded Al-Murabitun from this alliance. I repeat that the alliance is with the Palestinian cause, not with persons. The alliance is with objectives — the Palestinian cause and the return to Palestine. Agreements and talk are of no use.

[Abu Samrah] Abu Shakir, how can we interpret what has taken place in Beirut? Some people say that it is a continuation of what has happened in Sidon and others say that it is an exposed conflict between the Sunnis and Shi'ites. Is this true?

[Qulaylat] First, I would like to say that if we are to describe the Amal movement along sectarian lines, we say that Amal constitutes a faction of the noble patriotic and nationalistic Islamic Shi'ite community and not all Shi'ites. We sympathize with Amal as a political movement and not a sectarian movement, unless it says otherwise. With regard to supporting the Palestinians, this is untrue. Is the fighter immune to wounds and martyrdom? There have been several rounds of fighting in West Beirut. Each time we are told that the Palestinians are supporting Al-Murabitun. It is clear that Al-Murabitun can control matters

and defend all the values, sanctities, and dignity they believe in.

[Abu Samrah] Therefore, you believe that what is taking place in Beirut is not a sectarian conflict. But I have a question: Do all the Sunnis of Beirut support Al-Murabitun?

[Qulaylat] I do not deny that I respect the value of my sectarian affiliation as a Lebanese, Arab nationalist, and a Sunni. However, my Islamic Sunnite affiliation is in the service of the integration and unity of Islamic sects. If the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun contains, and is in harmony with, all classes of the masses among the Sunni Muslims, this is an honor for us. But we are only using this alliance and this framework for (?other incidents).

[Abu Samrah] Abu Shakir, after this detailed analysis of what is taking place, I have a simple question. Bloody incidents have taken place in Sidon. These are now followed by bloody incidents in Beirut. What is coming after Sidon and Beirut?

[Qulaylat] We hope that the next round after Sidon and Beirut will not be in Tripoli or western Al-Biqa'. We fear the features of these rounds, especially the last one which was attended by steps to reactivate the sectarian canton plan as signaled by the Ja'ja' operation.

[Abu Samrah] Do you believe that events will lead to cantons in Lebanon?

[Qulaylat] According to Ja'ja's statement, that represents a basic goal for his movement, namely, the establishment of the Christian community canton and the Maronite canton in particular. Therefore, I can say that Ja'ja's statement and what took place in Beirut and Sidon before that statement are, in my opinion, important pretexts to establishing a Druze canton and a Shi'ite canton, particularly for the Amal Shi'ites.

[Abu Sarah] If there will be cantons, where will the Sunni canton be?

[Qulaylat] There will be no Sunni canton. We believe in the pan-Arab ideology and we believe in the unity of our homeland, Lebanon, and in the unity of the Arab nation. These designs and the recent round will fail to achieve any goals. We will destroy them and those who are planning to establish cantons and sectarian statelets. Whatever the circumstances may be and whatever the value of this confidence on which I relay, the downfall of these projects will take plac because this is what nationalist, pan-Arab , and Islamic Beirut, Sidon, Tripoli, the Iqlim, and the western Al-Biqa' want. We will remain committed to our goals. These cities can wait, but will not forget. We will continue to refuse to be invloved in plots to establish sectarian cantons and partition Lebanon.

[Abu Samrah] Regardless of the cantons, there are some people who say that what is taking place in Lebanon is aimed at dealing a blow to the Palestinians who support Yasir 'Arafat and to those who support the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. What is your opinion?

[Qulaylat] This has no real or objective base. Yasir 'Arafat and his forces were in Al-Biqa' and Tripoli. I can confirm that Yasir 'Arafat has a number of important offices and personnel in Damascus. At every phase where a step in the region's plans is required this legend appears — Yasir 'Arafat and his group. what is, I mean, I mean .... [sentence incomplete]

[Abu Samrah You believe that what is taking place in Sidon and Beirut has nothing to do with the return of any pro-'Arafat Palestinian elements to Lebanon?

[Qulaylat] Absolutely.

[Abu Samrah] Then what is the reason? Striking at Al-Murabitun?

[Qulaylat] Allow me. The Palestinian brothers who are opposed as we are to Yasir 'Arafat's trend are prevented from playing any move or role. This is clear. I want you to direct this question to the Palestinian leaders with whom we meet on a platform that is opposed to the Yasir 'Arafat trend and Arab reactionaries. These leaders are Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Dr George Habash, and Ahmad Jibril. You ask them frankly and in a loud voice to answer your question: Are Al-Murabitun and Ibrahim Qulaylat connected with Yasir 'Arafat or are they (?bitterly) opposed to 'Arafat's plans?

[Abu Samrah] Then, Abu Shakir, in conclusion, you deny any relations with 'Arafat.

[Qulaylat] I would like to say that I do not defend myself. Facts, the march, and history affirms this firm, clear, and frank position and trend. Whenever they wanted to implement a plot or a round [of fighting] this aspect crops up. It is very difficult to believe that Yasir 'Arafat and his gangs, as they say, cannot be faced by all kinds of forces.

Former Al-Murabitun Leader's Office Raided

NC172052 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Socialist gunmen early this morning raided the office of Dr Samir Sabbagh, leader of the Independent National Grouping, in Corniche al-Mazra'ah and killed four of his associates after destroying the office. They warned Dr Sabbagh to attend the meeting being held in the house of Minister Birri this evening, in the presence of Minister Junblatt and representatives of the National Democratic Front. It is worth noting that Dr Sabbagh had broken away from the Al-Murabitun to lead the Independent National Grouping. In another development, gunmen this evening entered the house of actor Ghassan Matar in the Verdun area and killed his wife and his 18-year-old son Guevara.

West Beirut Divided Into 2 Zones of Influence

NC171812 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Informed security sources have reported that a meeting was held last night between the leaders of the Amal Movement

and the Socialists. During the meeting, West Beirut was divided into two zones of influence. The first zone includes Ra's Bayrut, Al-Hamra, and 'Ayn al-Muraysi and has been put under the control of the socialists. The second zone includes Al-Tariq al-Jadidah, Al-Fakihani, Al-Mazra'ah, Al-Musaytibah, and Karakas and has been put under the control of the Amal movement.

Reportage on Factional Fighting in Beirut Area

60 Killed or Wounded

NC171558 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Amal movement, the socialists, and the communists have nearly total control over West Beirut. More than 60 people were killed or wounded in the fighting, which caused serious property damage as well. The area is all but paralyzed. Fear and anxiety prevail in West Beirut.

Amal Surrounds Refugee Camps

NC171800 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] According to the latest information received from West Beirut, 'Aql Hamiyah, the military official in the Amal movement, is concentrating his men around the Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah camps in cooperation with the General Command [not further identified].

Calm on Contact Lines

NC180620 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0550 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon reported a little while ago that tension prevails in the city and that severe tension prevails in East Sidon where sporadic explosions are being heard, particularly in Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and Darb al-Sin. There were three explosions yesterday in the Al-Ashrafiyah area in Beirut, injuring two people. Calm now prevails along the contact lines in Beirut while the Ring and Sodeco crossing points remain closed.

Amal Gunmen 'on Alert'

NC181044 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Our security correspondent has just reported that Amal and socialist gunmen have been put on alert following reports that a number of Al-Murabitun gunmen have infiltrated into the 'A'ishah Bakkar area in order to carry out operations against Amal and socialist positions. In another development, security reports indicate that Amal and socialist military commands have decided to set up roadblocks on the outskirts of Beirut to prevent Palestinians and Al-Murabitun gunmen from entering Beirut. Amal, meanwhile, has decided to increase the number of roadblocks around Palestinian camps to prevent Palestinians from bringing in weapons.

Israeli Planes Attack DFLP Position in Al-Biqa'

NC171258 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1238 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided the Ta'nayil area in Al-Biqa' at approximately 1410 today. A position of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine was the target of the raid. Anti-aircraft fire was directed at the planes. It is not known whether there have been any casualties.

IDF Raids Yatir, Blows Up 'Several Houses'

NC171344 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Israeli enemy forces this morning raided Yatir Township with 40 vehicles, 30 armored personnel carriers, 2 helicopters, and 250 troops. They gathered the residents in the public square and detained Ghalib Amin Kurani, 'Atif Rashid Kurani, Muhammad Ibrahim Suwaydan, Husayn 'Ali Mir'i Kurani, Hasan Haydar Ja'far, Husayn Salah Salih, and Yusuf Sulayman Quduh. The enemy forces also blew up several houses, including those belonging to Hasan Abu Ahmad Kurani, Hamzi Musa Kurani, 'Ali Musa Kurani, 'Abd al-'Aziz Mahmud Ja'far, Muhammad Hammud Ja'far, Muhammad Yusuf Haydus, Husayn 'Ali Suwaydan, and 'Abd al-Latif Suwaydan.

Resistance Fighters Attack IDF Patrols 17 Apr

NC171451 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Lebanese national resistance fighters have carried out a number of heroic operations against the Israeli occupation forces. The martyr Muhammad Sa'd group set off an explosive charge as an Israeli mechanized patrol was passing through Al-Khashm area near Qana village at 1100 today. An enemy vehicle was destroyed and all its passengers were killed or wounded. Upon the arrival of reinforcements, the same group set off another explosive charge which destroyed an Israeli vehicle and jeep, thereby killing or wounding their passengers. At 1315 today, the martyr Muhammad Sa'd group set off an explosive charge as an enemy patrol was passing over the Jibb Jannin-Jibal al-Butm road. An Israeli APC was destroyed and its passengers were killed or wounded. After the operation, large enemy reinforcements supported by military helicopters arrived at the scene. The helicopters were painted white to give the impression that they belong to UNIFIL.

Israeli enemy helicopters and artillery last night shelled Tura destroying three houses, killing one woman, and wounding four other people.

Additional Reports on National Day Celebrations

Speech Rally Held

JN171914 [Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic in a hookup with Damascus television at 1518 GMT on 17 April begins a live broadcast of a speech rally held at Damascus University auditorium to celebrate the Syrian national independence day — the 39th anniversary of the evacuation of the French forces from Syria on 17 April 1946. According to the announcer, the rally is attended by Assistant Secretary General of the Ba'th Party 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Vice President Dr Rif'at al-Asad, and People's Assembly speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The announcer also says that President al-Asad is represented at the rally by the regional assistant secretary of the Ba'th Party, Sulayman Qaddah.

The rally officially begins at 1524 GMT with 1-minute of silence to honor the martyrs of Syria and the Arab nation, followed at 1525 GMT by the speech of 'Abd al-Rahman Hamzah, chairman of the League of War Veterans. Hamzah hails the Syrian people's struggle and sacrifices for national independence and Arab liberation, and names prominent Syrian strugglers who were martyred in Palestine. Hamzah concludes his speech by thanking President Hafiz al-Asad for looking after the welfare of war veterans and the families of martyrs.

At 1550 GMT, Mustafa al-'Ayid, president of the Peasants General Federation, delivers a speech on behalf of Syrian popular organizations in which he praises the people's role in the struggle for national independence and reviews Syria's social and economic achievements under Al-Asad's leadership. At 1610 GMT, 'Abd al-Ghani Qannut, member of the central leadership of the Progressive National Front, delivers a speech devoted the spirit of martyrdom, and hails southern Lebanese martyrs, especially the Shi'ite girl martyr Thana' Mhaybali saying "force is the only way to Palestine." Rights, he says, are not given but obtained by force.

Sulayman Qaddah, regional assistant secretary of the Ba'th Party, delivers the party speech at 1630 GMT. He devotes the first part of his speech to reviewing the history of national struggle as well as the Ba'th Party's achievements on the domestic and Arab levels, especially since the 1970 corrective movement under President Hafiz al-Asad. Speaking about imperialist-Zionist plans and plots in the region, Qaddah says:

"Here is the traitorous renegade 'Arafat clique indulging in its plotting to liquidate the Palestine question by cooperating with the reactionary Arab regimes that are involved in the Camp David accords and revolve in the orbit of U.S. imperialism, which wants to dominate the Arab region. This clique's traitorous behavior was manifested in the convocation of the so-called Palestine National Council in Amman. This council produced resolutions that represented capitulationist concessions, thereby violating the Palestinian National Charter, throwing overboard the resolutions passed by the previous PNC sessions, and splitting Palestinian ranks. All this led to the signing of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement under false slogans which, in the end, lead to the swamp of treason, capitulation, and direct negotiations with the racist Zionist entity."

He adds: "In view of the low posture taken by the 'Arafat clique, we can understand and appreciate the big role played by progressive, national groups in the PLO. We can also realize the significance of the formation of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, its role in ending the deviation, and its symbols in order to restore the unity of the PLO based on the national and pan-Arab stand that is hostile to imperialism and Zionism."

Qaddah continues: "Comrades, brothers: This relaxation, capitulation, and plotting has been attended by certain isolationist factions in Lebanon carrying out a mutiny against the Lebanese legitimacy. This mutiny was motivated by the Zionist enemy in the interest of its plans in Lebanon. This mutiny is trying to hinder the process of security, accord, stability, unity, and liberation in fraternal Lebanon. This is also an attempt by the hostile forces to undermine our country's steadfastness in confronting the Zionist challenge. This situation has also been attended by the activities of the reactionary regimes in Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq which are cooperating and coordinating with the traitorous 'Arafat clique to form a new alliance that will operate under the umbrella of the United States and its Zionist ally. The signs of this alliance are already evident by the exchange of visits between the leaders of these regimes and the increase in coordination and plotting. They, too, want to besiege revolutionary Ba'thist Syria, which has remained steadfast and foiled suspect plans."

Qaddah says that Syria under the leadership of Al-Asad will foil all new plots, just as it forced NATO forces out of Lebanon and brought about the Israeli withdrawal from part of Lebanon. He adds: "Here is Ba'thist Syria extending the hand of assistance and support to the Lebanese national resistance, which is recording the most splendid pages of sacrifice and heroism in facing the Zionist occupation of the south and forcing the enemy to make successive withdrawals — a situation that is considered the beginning of Arab awakening."

The rally ends at 1656 GMT with the Syrian national anthem.

Al-Asad Receives Reagan Cable

JN171842 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Damascus, 17 Apr (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has received the following congratulatory cable from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on the anniversary of the evacuation from Syria:

On behalf of the American people, I would like to send to you our heartfelt wishes on the Syrian independence day.

The traditions that Syria inspired constitute a source of great pride to Syria today and constitute a prelude to the important and independent role that Syria plays in the Middle East.

As you celebrate this historic occasion, we wish you good health in leading the Syrian people and hope that the coming years will be full of security, prosperity, and happiness.

Peres Opposes Inquiry Into Lebanese War

TA171617 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1405 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will not initiate the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the Lebanese war after the withdrawal. A short time ago, the prime minister met with Tel Aviv University students affiliated with the Labor Party. Our correspondent Gay Pines reports the prime minister's remarks:

[Begin Peres recording] I will not initiate the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the qustion of Lebanon — and I have my own reasons. However, I do not mind if Knesset members decide differently. In my opinion, we do not have a lot of time and we have more pressing missions at hand. In my opinion, a government must run state affairs and when I see the various problems we have to tackle in economics, politics, and security, I would rather invest my time and energy on matters pertaining to the future. I also do not feel the need for a commission of inquiry because my opinion as well as that of many others about what happened in Lebanon has been persistent and steadfast. Let other parliamentary bodies make such an initiative. [end recording]

Rabin Views Egyptian Ties, Jordan-PLO Moves

TA171129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal on 17 April -- recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] I believe that any visit by a minister to Cairo and any visit by an Egyptian minister to Israel are basically positive and somewhat thaw the cold peace relations. I am convinced that there is no harm in this visit. However, on the other hand, we should not assume that salvation will come from a lone visit of this or that minister.

[Tal] How do you assess the chances of reaching a dialogue with the Egyptians on all bilateral issues, including arbitration on Tabah?

[Rabin] I think that if Egypt really wants to thaw the cold peace, and if we are also willing to take significant steps, the best way is to discuss all the standing issues — that is, all the issues that have not been implemented according to the peace treaty: Tabah, the ambassador, normalization, the problem of continuing to search for Israelis missing in action, receiving approval to search for the "Daqar" submarine off the coast of Alexandria, various issues that for some reason got stuck and were frozen. In order to thaw the peace, we must discuss all the issues as a package deal, to use an economic term.

[Tal] Mr Rabin, in yesterday's meeting with Richard Murphy you said that the Jordanian initiative is a tactical move meant to bring about a dialogue between the PLO and the United States. Do you really believe that this initiative is worthless?

[Rabin] I think that you have misquoted me. I said that if the Mubarak initiative to hold a peace meeting in Cairo between delegations from Israel, Egypt, and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without PLO members had indeed taken place, I would have considered it a positive development. To my regret, Mubarak's initiative, in the form it was presented in *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, is not operative, at least at this stage. We are witnessing a joint Jordanian-Egyptian effort to bring about a meeting between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and U.S. officials. What I told Murphy is that if indeed there is such a meeting between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Americans without this being defined as meant to advance the dialogue with Israel, if Jordan's aim is to hold a dialogue with the United States, I will view it negatively. However, if it is only a stage in contacts to bring about negotiations with Israel, I will view it favorably, and in that event, naturally, there cannot be people in the delegation who are unequivocally identified as PLO members.

Rabin Interviewed on Withdrawal From Lebanon

TA171505 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1405 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by IDF Radio Commander Lieutenant Colonel Ron Ben-Yishay during Rabin's tour of Tyre on 17 April -- recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Yishay] Mr Rabin, perhaps you could explain the next stages until the final deployment along the international border.

[Rabin] Basically, the detailed proposal will be submitted to the Cabinet for its approval next Sunday. Today, we are particularly looking forward to the stage when we deploy along the international border, IDF soldiers are not stationed in Lebanon on a permanent basis, and to the solidification of the security strip which includes two components: civil guards within the villages....

[Ben-Yishay, interrupting] Civil guards made up of local inhabitants?

[Rabin] Yes, made up of local inhabitants. In any event, the guards will be based on the local population: Christians in the Christian villages, Shi'ites in the Shi'ite locations, Druze in the Druze communities, and so forth. The second component is based on army of southern Lebanon [ASL] troops, who will be — more or less — stationed according to their places of residence.

[Ben-Yishay] That is to say, a Druze battalion in Ra's Rashayyah....

[Rabin, interrupting] A Druze battalion in the Hasbayya area because we will evacuate the region of Ra's Rashayyah; a Christian battalion in Marj 'Uyun and its vicinity; mainly Shi'ite units in areas particularly inhabited by Shi'ites. These troops will simply be in charge of the area, in addition to the civil guards who will be in charge of the villages and will coordinate their activities with the ASL.

[Ben-Yishay] Will the IDF maintain a presence in that strip?

[Rabin] Our aim is not to have a permanent IDF presence. If the situation remains calm, then there will be no need for the IDF to operate. However, if the normal life of our settlements is disrupted we will certainly have to operate everywhere, whether within the security strip or north of it. Basically, I believe that before long we will complete the evacuation of the eastern and western sectors in order to reach the security strip. Only later will we reach the international border.

[Ben-Yishay] When do you believe the area of Tyre will be evacuated? This is the area in which there is the highest number of terrorist attacks. Only this month 15 roadside bombs exploded there; last March there were 106 attacks there compared to half that amount in February.

[Rabin] It will not take too long, but I cannot tell now.

[Ben-Yishay] Will this take place by Independence Day [25 April]?

[Rabin] No, I am afraid it will not be then. However, this will take place very soon. After the next Cabinet session, I will certainly be able to make a more accurate statement. In any event, it is only a matter of weeks.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Rabin, the Jazzin area is a very problematic one. There are Christians there who want to maintain a relationship with us while, on the other hand, there are many who claim this area; the Druze, the Syrians, and many others would like to be there. What do you think will happen there and when will we withdraw from that region?

[Rabin] As far as the IDF is concerned, the evacuation of the Jazzin area is part of the evacuation of the eastern sector. Therefore, it is necessary to make a clear distinction between the IDF's activities and Israel's relations with all the factions. We would like to keep in contact with the Druze and Christian communities, and we would be glad to have a relationship with the Shi'ite community, if it so desires. The way I see these relations with the factions north of the international border and the security strip, the IDF will under no circumstances whatsoever be used to maintain or strengthen them.

[Ben-Yishay] Walid Junblatt stated 2 days ago that he intends to throw Israel into the sea and embraced the concept of a greater Syria. What is your reaction?

[Rabin] I do not have to react. Walid Junblatt said whatever he did and his remarks are very serious. However, in Lebanon we learned to judge by their deeds rather than their words. Let us hope that he realizes the gravity of his remarks.

[Ben-Yishay] What do you think the Syrians will do — this is actually the biggest question mark — after we leave the eastern sector and the Jazzin area?

[Rabin] I believe the Syrians realize we expect them not to cause trouble by moving their regular forces into the areas close to us. On the other hand, I think that as a matter of principle, the Syrians would like terrorist attacks against Israel to continue without risking a direct military confrontation with Israel. After all, why should they not fight until the last Shi'ite or Palestinian?

[Ben-Yishay] Is that why President al-Asad encourages kamikazes in television and other public appearances?

[Rabin] Kamikaze attacks are a relatively new phenomenon that we are now witnessing in Lebanon. Many people want to bask in what they perceive as the prestige deriving from kamikaze operations. To the best of my knowledge, all the kamikazes in Lebanon so far have been Shi'ites; there have not been any non-Shi'ites who have perpetrated or seriously planned kamikaze attacks. It seems that this prestige is the reason this type of activity is in demand by so many people, including the Syrians.

Prime Minister Office Announces Peres-Mubarak Summit

TA171210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Shim'on Peres and Husni Mubarak will hold a meeting in a few weeks. This was reported to correspondents in Cairo by Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

In Jerusalem, government officials told reporters that the meeting between Peres and Mubarak will be held next month. They talked to reporters on the condition that the report remains anonymous. They believe that Yitzhaq Shamir and his Egyptian counterpart, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, may confer before that. The officials added that an interministerial committee has been established to prepare the meeting between Peres and Mubarak. On it are Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office; Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche; and the Defense Ministry's Menahem 'Eynan, the head of the IDF planning branch.

Further on Minister Weizman's Visit to Egypt

Details of Mubarak Meeting

TA170930 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
17 Apr 85 p 3

[Report from Cairo by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday instructed Defense Minister Abu Ghazala to help Israel search for the missing "Daqar" submarine and the bodies of the missing in action from the Yom Kippur war, and to allow Israeli yachts to anchor at Coral Island.

Mubarak took this step as a gesture in honor of Minister 'Ezer Weizman, with whom he conferred yesterday for approximately 2 hours at Al-Qubbah Palace; this is the site Mubarak chooses to meet with heads of state visiting Cairo. The meeting lasted longer than was originally expected, and another Weizman-Mubarak meeting may take place today. Weizman was received very warmly by Mubarak, and toward the end of the meeting the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avraham Tamir, was also asked to join.

Mubarak told Weizman: I will be very happy to meet with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres soon. Peres is a friend of peace, and together we will be able to tackle the various issues in the fabric of relations between Israel and Egypt. Mubarak added that he plans to invite Peres for a summit meeting in the near future — that is, within weeks — but that the details of the meeting should be meticulously prepared.

In his meeting with Mubarak, Weizman was careful to observe Peres' instructions: a conversation and an exchange of views — yes; political negotiations — no. Weizman talked about a whole range of issues, including the problem of Sudan and the Iran-Iraq war, but he refrained from delving into negotiations on the particulars of the political "package deal" which is topical now. At Mubarak's orders, Weizman and Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, conferred with Mubarak's aide, Usamah al-Baz. They discussed preparations for the summit, and worked out the details of the political "package deal" that will be discussed during the summit.

In his meeting with Weizman, Mubarak said: I understand your problems, but you must also understand ours. He talked mainly about the Palestinian problem, the solution of which must be discussed, and about the Tabah problem. Mubarak hinted that if Israel agrees to transfer the debate over Tabah to international arbitration, he might accept a compromise arrangement that will permit coexistence in Tabah and joint administration of daily life there. On the Lebanese issue, the Egyptian president said: I suggest you accelerate the withdrawal and get out of Lebanon. This will contribute greatly to an improvement in the atmosphere. He told Weizman: I have information that the Syrians would not move forces as a result of the IDF withdrawal, nor would they aid terrorism against Israel. The Shi'ite problem will, in essence, be a Syrian problem.

The Egyptian president expressed his view that a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, without PLO membership, will soon be composed, enabling Israel to deliberate with such a delegation in the not-too-distant future.

Weizman protested the hostile publications in the Egyptian press, which are anti-Israeli in general, but hostile toward Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in particular. Mubarak replied: "There is an opposition here that objects to peace. There is a free press here, and I have no control over it."

Egyptian television yesterday opened its newscast with a description of the Mubarak-Weizman meeting. The papers also reported on Weizman's visit on their front pages, but no photographs were reproduced.

Weizman Sums Up Meetings

TA171607 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1405 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Interview with Minister 'Ezer Weizman by *DAVAR* correspondent in Cairo Yosi Melman on 17 April — recorded]

[Text] [Melman] 'Ezer Weizman, a short while ago you ended two meetings: One with the Egyptian foreign minister and the other with Egypt's defense minister. How would you sum up these two meetings?

[Weizman] Look, there is much that can be said about these meetings, but I think it would be wrong to elaborate before reporting to the prime minister, the foreign minister and, I hope, to the government. I found much goodwill during the talks. I was particularly pleased to see the defense minister, whom I have not seen in a while, and whom I know from the days in Washington 7 years ago. We have things in common, and these I will pass on to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on my return. I will have a farewell meeting with the Egyptian prime minister at his home this evening, which will include a private dinner. I am aware that today is the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day and this is why he, a few friends, and I will have a very quiet evening. Tomorrow morning, on Holocaust Memorial Day, we are returning home.

[Melman] On the eve of your return can you say whether in your report to the prime minister and the government you will say that you believe some progress has been achieved in terms of the chances of resuming and normalizing relations between the two countries?

[Weizman] I believe that I can bring back information, some of which is important and could lead to developments. Some things have already been covered by others before me. I did not come here to promote things on my own; I came here to learn and to see what is happening for myself. I have not been here in 20 months. So, I think that the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister who are dealing with the issue should consider — if they accept or analyze some of the information I will bring back with me, as I think it should be analyzed — ways how to promotethis issue. Needless to say, relations between us and Egypt are of the utmost importance to the future of the two countries and of the region.

[Melman] I do not know whether you know this, but it has been reported that Minister Ari'el Sharon said that you are sabotaging the peace process and acting as a thief in the night. How do you react to this? Have you heard these reports?

[Weizman] No, I have not heard any such reports, and thus I do not want to react to remarks about sabotage and theft. I have never been a saboteur or a thief. I did not hear that he had said such things. If he did say them, then I am sorry, but I hope he did not.

Egyptian Officials Comment

TA180427 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0400 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] The Egyptian prime minister has said that it is still too early to set a date for a meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Peres. Speaking to Israeli reporters in Cairo, Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized that he believes the ties between Egypt and Israel will greatly improve and, after the atmosphere improves, the entire fabric of bilateral relations will change. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that the Egyptian foreign minister told Minister 'Ezer Weizman that his country plans to increase commercial ties with Israel even before the summit.

Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid summoned newspaper editors in his country this week and asked them to cease their wild attacks on Israel. He told the editors that this request is being made with the consent and knowledge of President Mubarak. In his meeting with 'Ezer Weizman, 'Abd al-Majid expressed his regret over what was published about Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and explained that at the time the editor of the weekly was not in Egypt.

The Egyptian defense minister promised that he would help Israel in searches for the missing "Daqar" submarine.

'Ezer Weizman is to return to Israel this morning and will brief the prime minister on his visit this afternoon.

The Egyptian minister of petroleum and mineral wealth has disclosed that his country has already purchased a certain type of refined oil from Israel. Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil told Israeli correspondents in Cairo that he might visit Israel soon.

Egypt's 'Ali Interviewed

TA180502 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has said that Cairo is pleased with the fact that Minister 'Ezer Weizman accepted the invitation, and is now currently visiting Egypt. Speaking to Israeli correspondents in Cairo accompanying Minister Weizman's party, the Egyptian prime minister said that he remembers well Minister 'Ezer Weizman's book *The Struggle for Peace* [Hama'avaq Lashalom] and believes that, together with the Egyptians, he is still struggling for peace. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a broadcast this report from Cairo this morning.

[Begin recording] [Barne'a] One way or the other, a summit meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will be held. It is too premature to set the date for it right now, but a summit meeting will be held, with God's help, as we say; we must only prepare for it. What about normalization in bilateral relations even before the meeting, we asked him? Relations with Israel are nearly normal, 'Ali said, and I quote verbatim: We must only imbue commerce with some spirit; once the atmosphere improves with the advent of mutual visits and the exchanges of views — all this will lead to everything becoming normal. The issue of trade in particular is not a matter of flipping on a switch; it is a matter that requires time. Now, after Israel has participated in the Cairo international trade fair, I believe that people here know more about the Israeli companies, and coupled with the new atmosphere, I think everything will change.

We asked 'Ali about Egypt's attitude toward the Israeli Government in regard to the possibilities of promoting the peace process in the broadest aspect, to which he replied:

['Ali — in English] Well, we always hoped and we always hope to push together the peace process, as we have agreed before. And, of course, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is the cornerstone in the whole process. And this was, as we know, for the first time happened. And this opened the door for those who like to have peace in the whole area — either in the Arab world, or Israel. It is a real chance. We have not to lose it.

[Barne'a translates the above and continues] This is what 'Ali said, while 'Ezer Weizman was seated next to him. What about Tabah? Is Tabah, for Egypt, a precondition for the transfer of the issue to arbitration? [sentence as heard] This must still be debated, 'Ali replied. The Tabah issue is extremely important. President Mubarak said in Washington that Tabah has become something like Cairo in importance for the Egyptian people. This is one of the issues in bilateral relations that must be debated together, between us.

What are the components of the package deal that should be prepared prior to the summit, we asked? I do not like the term package deal, 'Ali replied, because a package deal means business, while although we plan to do business, the intention is not to do business in trade, but rather in bilateral relations and the peace process. This is all we need. does that also include the return of the ambassador to Tel Aviv? Yes, 'Ali replied, this is one of the problems that must also be debated.

So this was the end, or the final chord in Minister 'Ezer Weizman's visit to Egypt. There was a modest dinner last night, without the participation of many guests, at Minister Weizman's request in view of Holocaust Memorial Day. Thus, there were only two or three government ministers, including the foreign minister, in attendance, and the Egyptian prime minister and Minister Weizman held a brief news conference with us, the Israeli correspondents, at the end of the dinner. [end recording]

Weizman Returns, Talks to Press

TA180723 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 18 Apr (ITIM) — Minister 'Ezer Weizman said upon his return this morning from Egypt that the leaders of Israel and Egypt must "grab the bull by the horns" in order to thaw the freeze and bring about a shift in relations, which is what both countries desire.

At an airport news conference, he said he would report today to the prime minister and the foreign minister on his talks with the Egyptian president and top government leadership. In reply to a question, he said that he himself had seen the reports to the Foreign Ministry that were dispatched during the visit. "If the reports that the Foreign Ministry was not kept in the picture are a new form of disinformation, then I do not know..." he said.

Minister Weizman found a lot of goodwill in Egypt, and is carrying a report and greetings from President Mubarak to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres with him.

"I did not go on a specific mission; it was a goodwill visit in order to study the moods and atmosphere in Egypt following the 20 months that I have been away from there. In light of my meetings, I am returning loaded with information that I will present to the prime minister and the foreign minister, who will contemplate the next moves."

Mr Weizman admitted that the situation is "chilly," but he noted that it is possible to warm this cold, that there is a desire on both sides to make this come about; it only depends on the two sides.

The two sides are seeking a shift in content and substance, and in this state of affairs a meeting between the two heads of state is essential, Mr Weizman said. Nonetheless, he emphasized that no date has been set for a Mubarak-Peres summit meeting.

"Such a meeting cannot be held without careful preparation, and the directors general of the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry, and the Defense Ministry are currently busy preparing the topics that will be broached in the meeting. Afterwards, a date will be fixed. My recommendation will be that the meeting be held as soon as possible," Mr Weizman said.

Shamir Reports to Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee

TA171056 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpts] This morning Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that a working team — comprised of representatives from the Prime Minister's Office and the Defense Ministry whose job is to draw up a comprehensive dialogue with Egypt on all the topical issues — has been busy these past 2 weeks in the Foreign Ministry. The group includes Avraham Tamir and David Kimche, as well as additional officials. In Shamir's opinion, once this move is completed, a Mubarak-Peres summit can be held. Our Knesset correspondent Ilana Dayan reports that in the session, Knesset Members Ben-Elisarhand Meridor sharply criticized Weizman's trip .

[Begin recording] Shamir believes that the team will shortly be able to submit its conclusions to the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, and that if these conclusions are endorsed, a meeting with Egyptian representatives will probably be held. It is high time a broad dialogue on all the issues is held, Shamir said, and this move — he thinks — could culminate in a Peres-Mubarak summit to conclude these deliberations and resolve the remaining disputes.

Shamir noted that no report has arrived from Cairo yet, but he presumes that, in his talks in Cairo, Weizman is not contradicting what has so far been agreed upon in the Cabinet. The foreign minister told the committee members that U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy did not bring with him any list, compiled by the Jordanians of Palestinian personalities who will be on the joint delegation with Jordan for talks with Israel, and added that Murphy was not presented with a proposal for such a list. The Jordanians are glued to the PLO and will not take any step without it, Murphy told Shamir. Murphy will return to Israel in 1 week to 10 days, and then we will be able to hear further reports from him.

At the end of its session, the committee issued an official announcement calling on the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, not to visit the German cemetery where Wehrmacht and SS soldiers from World War II are also buried. [end recording]

General Shomron Discusses Defense Forces

Withdrawal, Syrian Threat

TA171815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Dan Shomron says the Israeli army may provide strategic support in the security zone following the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. But, he says, the army will not maintain a presence in the zone. Tony Gadot reports:

General Shomron says that following the withdrawal from Lebanon the IDF will not maintain a presence in the security belt. But until the south Lebanon army and local militia are able to fend for themselves, the army may — if necessary — provide logistical support. Shomron believes that talk of the possibility of katyusha rocket attacks on Israeli settlements are exaggerated. He pointed out that although 170-mm katyushas have an effective range of several kilometers, past experience has shown that terrorists are incapable of hitting long-range targets and prefer to fire the rockets by remote activation from a range of several hundred meters. He warned that whenever intelligence reports indicate that terrorists have moved into the security belt or that artillery or katyusha launchers have been moved into firing range, the IDF will hit those targets immediately and with all the force necessary. But, the security belt must not only protect the northern settlements from terror attacks, he said, but must also provide a tactical topographical defense against attacks by a regular army.

Shomron said that the Syrian Army will probably redeploy in Lebanon after the withdrawal, possibly after pre-operation Peace for Galilee lines. Although the general does not foresee a war with Syria this coming year, he points out that the delicate strategic and political balance could be upset by any one of several factors, especially growing moderation in the Arab world that could force Syria into a conflict with Israel. Against the Syrian threat, Israel must be constantly on guard. He said that since operation Peace for Galilee the Syrian Army has grown and many of its weapons systems have been upgraded. Syria now has improved land, sea, air, and air defense capabilities, as well as the capability of hitting targets deep within Israel. But the IDF's qualitative superiority, despite budget cuts, can provide an answer to those threats, he said.

IDF Budget Issues

TA180704 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Apr 85 pp 1, 2

[Report by defense correspondent Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv — The army intends to cut reserve duty this year, calling commanders for up to 44 days and other men for a maximum of 37 days, Deputy Chief of General Staff Aluf (Major General) Dan Shomron said here yesterday. Last year some reservists served as many as 70 days.

Presenting the army's working plan for the new fiscal year to defence reporters, Shomron said the IDF does not expect a war

in the coming year. The Syrian, Jordanian and Egyptian armies have gained considerable strength, he said, but he did not anticipate any Arab coalition of forces to be formed in the forseeable future.

While this gives Israel a breathing spell, Shomron said, it does not rule out a sudden deterioration. The level of intelligence activities will therefore be maintained to provide sufficient early warning, he said.

Shomron also said that a very large number of the IDF's reserve combat battalions will this year be exempt from taking part in maintaining day-to-day security, and will be called up only for their annual training stint.

He said the army had decided against sharing the burden of current security among all combat battalions because the cost of replacing one unit with another is too high.

He added that units which had served in hardship spots in the past will be sent to more comfortable locations, while others that had been based in easier locations might be sent to the north.

A new arrangement with the National Insurance Institute will give the army an incentive to call up fewer reservists. Henceforth the National Insurance budget for paying reservists will be transferred to the IDF, and if it calls up fewer than envisaged soldiers, it will be left with money for other uses. If it calls up too many reservists, it will have to pay the balance from its own budget.

Shomron estimated that each reservist costs IS18,000 per day, and added that he hoped the army could reduce the number of reserve days by 600,000, saving some IS10 billion.

The plan for the next fiscal year calls for setting up some new units, but by and large it envisages cuts in manpower and in the amount of training reserve soldiers will undergo.

The number of professional army men and civilians employed by the army will be reduced by 2,400.

There will be less meat on soldiers' plates and a reduction in transportation for soldiers.

Shomron argued that the belt-tightening could be a blessing, maintaining that scarcity will push the army to find new inventions to increase its qualitative lead over the Arabs.

Accordingly, most research and development projects will hardly be affected by the cut-backs.

Work will continue on the Lavi jet fighter, and Shomron said all experts have concluded that it will be an excellent plane. However, he indicated there were conflicting views in General Headquarters on whether the plane should be built, given the cost involved.

The project would use sorely needed shekels --- in addition to foreign currency --- and would not leave the IDF enough flexibility for making other purchases, because the IDF would have to undertake to buy several dozen planes a month over a long period. In buying an F-16 "from the shelf" it is possible to make purchases when it is convenient, he said.

Lebanon Policy Coordinator Views Shi'ite Role

TA180739 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Apr 85 pp 1, 8

[Report by Ya'aqov Friedler]

[Excerpts] Haifa — Israel is still trying to establish relations with the Shi'ites and "hand them the keys to the south" provided they guarantee quiet, Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government policy in Lebanon, said here yesterday.

He stressed that everything in the past had been tried, but due to the internal leadership strife in the Shi'ite community "there is no address to call on."

Lubrani, in a speech to the Haifa Rotary Club, warned against "the illusion" that there will be total peace and quiet for the Galilee after the withdrawal. "I fear we must expect an active border," he said.

Lubrani said he would answer any questions "except why we invaded Lebanon." In answer to one he said Israel expects the south Lebanese army to guard only their own villages and to keep the terrorists out of them," and not to guard our border. [quotation mark as puslished]

"We do not expect a single south Lebanese soldier to risk his life for us. If they fail to do their job, they will force us to take actions that will be very bad for them," Lubrani said.

IDF Spokesman Denies Soldier Kidnapped

TA171915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] The IDF spokesman made plain this evening that no Israeli soldier has been missing or kidnapped by terrorists in Judaea and Samaria, as the terrorists claim. In a communique issued by the PLO in Beirut this afternoon, it was stated that PLO men seized an IDF soldier, Corporal Levi Ilya, and took him hostage. The terrorists threatened that they would execute him within 48 hours if Israel does not release PLO men apprehended aboard a boat opposite Cyprus shores.

Reacting to the communique, the IDF spokesman said that nothing of this nature had happened and reiterated that no Israeli soldier had fallen into the hands of the terrorists recently.

Levi Announces No New Settlements in Territories

TA171302 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Minister David Levi has declared that no new settlements will be established in the territories this year, beyond those that the government has already approved. Nevertheless, he empha-

sized that the building of the settlements will not stop. He was speaking with our correspondent Arye Salman while touring the new settlements south of Mount Hebron.

Ministers Reject Contents of U.S. Economic Document

TA171917 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpt] The United States has demanded that Israel react to a 10-point document, but several ministers say that under no circumstances should the points in the document be adopted. The 10-point document was formulated by the U.S. secretary of state's economic advisers, Professors Stein and Fisher. It demands that Israel reform its linkage system. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz sent a letter to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres calling on Israel to react to the document. Our correspondent 'Oded Shahar reports that a poignant argument erupted last night in the Prime Minister's Office between Treasury and Bank of Israel officials over the U.S. document.

Investment Opportunities With U.S. To Be Probed

TA180621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Israel and the United States will set up joint working teams to probe the possibility of investing in Israel in 10 fields, including investments in tourism, the establishment of a company that will invest in Israeli industries, and the possibility that Israeli firms will obtain money from the New York Stock Exchange.

The decision on the establishment of the working teams was made during Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi's talks with U.S. economic leaders and Jewish industrialists.

Our Washington correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the president of the Manufacturers Association, Eli Hurvitz, conferred last night with Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Allen Wallis. Western and Israeli industrialists will meet in Israel in the fall to look into the possibilities of investing in Israel.

Knesset Ratifies Package Deal Price Freeze

TA180713 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Apr 85 p 2

[Report by Aharon Sittner and Avi Temkin]

[Text] Officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade were gratified last night after the Knesset acted with record speed to approve the legislation needed to streamline operation of Package Deal III's price freeze.

After the Finance Committee hammered out the draft of the first reading of the amendment to the Products and Services Control Law (Price Stabilization), the bill was rushed to the plenum, where it was approved in its second and third readings.

Package Deal I extended from November 4, 1984 till last February 4; Package Deal II, from February 5 till March 31; and the current Package Deal III, which began on April 1, is scheduled to run for four months according to the agreement signed March 31 by the government, the Histadrut and the Manufacturers Association.

Following yesterday's action by the Knesset, Package Deal III's price freeze will include the following features:

— Retail prices: Their April levels are to be maintained for two months — through May 31 — at which time the Package Deal's "supreme committee" (Minister of Finance Moda'i, Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar and Manufacturer Association President Eli Hurvitz) will decide on possible changes. This two-month freeze applies to all prices, whether or not listed in the roster of 400 products whose maximum resale prices have been published by the ministry.

— So-called "new products": Manufacturers will no longer be able to dodge the freeze by making minor changes in an article and marketing it as a non-controlled item. Instead they will now have to get prior approval from the commissioner of prices before shipping such articles.

— Review committee: The ministry's price review committee has been abolished. This means no exemptions will be made during the freeze except by cabinet ministers themselves, and even their decisions are subject to approval by the tripartite "supreme committee."

— Rent: Though rents were unfrozen from their IS527-to-the-dollar levels at the end of Package Deal I, they are now returned to control and frozen for April and May. However, the shekelized amount to be paid depends on the date of the month on which the rent is due. And the effective exchange rate is the so-called "representative" rate published daily by the Bank of Israel. Thus, if the rent is due on the first of the month, the amount in shekels will be at IS864 to the dollar. If it is due on the 15th, the amount is IS907 to the dollar. And the same rent applies to April and May, because of the two-month freeze.

The Attorney General's Office has ruled that certain items referred to other ministries a few weeks ago for purposes of price supervision should be returned to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Among these are automobiles and spare parts (Transport Ministry); farm vehicles (Agriculture Ministry); pharmaceuticals (Health Ministry); and hotel rates (Tourism Ministry).

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved a 13 per cent increase in electricity rates, retroactive to March 29.

Moda'i claimed yesterday that the Histadrut has agreed to large increase in the prices of subsidized goods early in June. The minister told the Knesset Finance Committee that when the Package Deal II changes were agreed upon, the labour federation agreed to a hike in the prices of such goods by 13 per cent above the April-May rate of inflation.

If such hikes are implemented, prices of these goods will rise 25 to 30 per cent at the end of the current price freeze.

'Economic Bodies' Report on Ties With PRC

TA171139 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 17 Apr 85 p 1

[Report by the economic affairs correspondent]

[Text] Israeli economic bodies have been maintaining ties with bodies in the PRC and have been active in trying to form economic ties with that country. As far as is known, several deals have already been struck.

Two economic bodies yesterday — the "Gitam" advertising office and Hayim Peled — confirmed the existence of relations with the PRC bodies. "Gitam" director Yohanan Goldberg yesterday confirmed that his office has been active in the PRC through an advertising office in Hong Kong that has good ties with the PRC, and that through that office various publications on Israeli plants interested in sending their products to the PRC were prepared.

The director of the other advertising agency, Hayim Peled, also confirmed the existence of direct ties with the PRC, maintained through a man who resides in that country and who has good connections in Israel.

Several meetings have been held with local Chinese elements, who expressed readiness to purchase all sorts of nonmilitary goods in Israel, and who are furthermore prepared to discuss Israeli investments in the PRC in the fields of tourism, the hotel business, and others. Our correspondent notes that there have been previous reports on economic relations between Israel and the PRC in the past, particularly in connection with the military sphere. They mentioned the supply of cannons and tanks to the Chinese. Israel has never confirmed the existence of such ties, but this is the first time confirmation has been obtained of economic relations that are being developed with this communist country, which has a tremendous potential to absorb Israeli products.

India Has 'No Intention' of Improving Ties

TA180616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] India has no intention of improving its ties with Israel in the near future. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that Israel has recently asked a Jewish businessman who is a British subject to look into the possibility that, as a result of the reshuffle in India, it may be possible to improve relations. The businessman conferred with Rajiv Gandhi and other government officials, but learned that India will not improve its ties, and will also not allow the reopening of the Israeli consulate general in Bombay.

ALGERIA

LE MONDE: Bendjedid Visits U.S. To Purchase Arms

PM171340 Paris LE MONDE in French 14-15 Apr 85 p 4

[Jean de la Gueriviere dispatch: "Algiers Is Trying To Diversify Its Arms Suppliers"]

[Text] Algiers — The background to the visit made by President Bendjedid to the United States this week is Algeria's desire to break its exclusive relations with Moscow in the defense sphere and to diversify its suppliers.

One of the signs of a thaw between Algies and Washington was the purchase 3 years ago of a dozen C-130 Hercules transport planes. These planes would make it possible to transport troops to face a possible Libyan penetration attempt on the border which seems most threatened in the present state of affairs. Indeed, on the Moroccan side, despite the West Sahara conflict between Rabat and the Poisario forces stationed in Algeria, a kind of modus vivendi has been established.

The Sahara war, which led Algeria to increase its military purchases from the USSR — its traditional supplier — has been and remains a partial obstacle to the signing of contracts with the West. It is unlikely that major changes will be made in the Army, which is equipped mainly by the Soviets, but, for several months, the Algerians have been stepping up investigations with a view to modernizing their Air Force and their Navy with new partners.

For the time being things are still at the exploratory stage. Algeria is secretly sending missions abroad and receiving them at home. It is finding out about prices and performances and making people wait for its decisions, skillfully playing with the competition. "The important thing is that Algeria should not turn to Moscow alone; it does not really matter which Western countries it has dealings with," the Americans say.

This statement does not rule out hopes for themselves, and Washington is prepared to examine "case by case" the requests the Algerians might make during the visit of President Benjedid, who will be accompanied by General Kamel Abderrahim, who was appointed deputy chief of staff in one of the decrees reorganizing national defense last November.

A French Radar Network

For the French the major deal is still Algeria's plan to equip itself with a radar air cover system. At present Algeria merely has mobile radar systems used in sensitive areas. It has obtained information from Paris about the cost of a fixed detection network for all its borders, with centers for immediate processing of information. These static detection centers should logically be accompanied by the installation of suitable means of inspection [as published], in other words fixed missile-launching stations. If the contract is signed one day, it will crown long and complex negotiations and, in addition, France will have to understand the Algerians' concern not to be bound to a single country.

At this stage Britain is probably the country which has benefited most from Algeria's open-door policy. In a area connected with defense and law and order — building barracks and command posts for the gendarmerie — the British firm Baxter Fell International recently signed a new contract worth $130 million.

Britain has sold Algeria a large number of Land Rovers, which it is maintaining. It has also supplied it with landing craft, and the Mers el Kebir shipyard is building high-speed patrol boats under British license.

The Sale of Aircraft

The French and British are in competition for the sale of training aircraft which will one day replace the old French Fouga-Magister planes now used by Algerian pilots. Despite rumors which circulate from time to time on this subject, it is unlikely that Algeria will replace its Soviet MiG aircraft with other costly fighter planes in the near future. On the other hand major contracts could be signed for the supply of helicopters.

In November a British ship made an official stopover in Algiers with a whole consignment of exhibition equipment, ranging from helicopters to light armored vehicles of the type used to keep order in Northern Ireland. From 25 to 30 April it will be the turn of the *Jeanne d'Arc*. The French training ship, with Alouette, Dauphin, and Lynx helicopters on board, will have two Algerians among the foreign trainees on board with the officer cadets. Staff training will be an essential part of the equipment "package." At the beginning of March Colonel Hamid Abdelli, commander of the Air Forces, made a visit to France during which he toured a training center.

In addition, like Egypt, Algeria wishes to provide itself with an arms industry, starting with assembly units. These units should gradually be able to manufacture some equipment — helicopters or aircraft — initially imported. The suppliers finally chosen will be those who take into account the Algerian desire for technology transfers.

LIBYA

U.S. Fears Jamahiriyah-Sudan Relations

LD171912 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Apr (JANA) — The American Government has expressed its fears and anxiety at the development of relations between Libya and Sudan in the wake of the overthrow of the regime of the lackey Numayri.

NEWSWEEK stated that the White House has been alarmed by the speed with which Libya recognized the new situation in Sudan. It added that American officials view any positive initiative between Libya and Sudan as bad news.

Through this stance the U.S. Government once again blatantly confirms excitability about any situation which is not in line with its direct interests in the Arab region without taking into consideration the legitimate interests and aspirations of the Arab nation. The American Government has been bent on hostility to

every rapprochement that takes place between two Arab countries outside the scope of its policy, which stems from its hostility to the Arab nation, which it fears, and follows the principle of (?implementing its traditional) tactics in installing for itself (?hirelings) such as Husni Mubarak, and those rulers like him, who agree to allow the U.S. State Department to administer their policies.

JANA Reacts to VOA Reports on Pan-Arab Command

LD180919 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Apr (JANA) — The U.S. Government and its official information media, including the Voice of America, have repeated a series of fabrications and contrived allegations concerning the Libyan Arab people's decisions to eliminate exploitation, quit the circle of monopolist companies, rationalize consumption, build a system of people's markets, and reject Western-style living.

The JANA political editor, commenting on these allegations, has written the following: A few days after the official, blatant attack by the U.S. Government concerning the announcement of the establishment of the Pan-Arab Command of the Revolutionary Forces in the Arab Homeland, the official ruling circles in Washington again levelled new falsifications against the Jamahiriyah, showing clearly the area in which the U.S. Government has chosen to demonstrate its hostility toward Libya, namely, by directly attacking the gains of the Libyan Arab people and their fundamental choices, thereby ignoring the clear and simple fact that what is taking place in Libya has gone beyond the stage of American analyses and predictions. The politicians in Washington must finally come to understand that the wheel of history in Libya will not turn backwards.

The U.S. Government has taken the liberty, through the Voice of America, of relating a series of fabricated reports which the Zionist media, in this period in particular, and for reasons we and the whole world know, are working to spread against Libya.

While we take care in explaining some facts, this is not intended as a reply, but as an explanation for some of the circumstances surrounding this American-Zionist-reactionary move at this period in time. It is natural that some Washington politicans, whose calculations have fallen through in the face of the popular revolution in Sudan and whose propaganda efforts via Husni Mubarak's regime have failed to contain the 6 April revolution in Khartoum, should try to distract the masses in the Arab streets, especially in Egypt by spreading fabrications against Libya, one of the main steadfast bastions in the Arab homeland, as well as against the Arab nation, which has gone beyond the stage of fearing America, but which is obviously feared by the U.S. Government and its pawns in the eastern and western Arab countries.

It is natural for the United States to try to mislead the Arab masses with hopeless fictitious stories about conditions inside Libya, the only country which has announced that its borders are unconditionally open to the Arab and African masses, who suffer from food price hikes in Egypt and other countries of the greater Arab homeland and Africa as a result of the U.S. Government's course of plundering the resources of these countries.

It is also natural for the U.S. Government and its propaganda instruments to continue in their attack against the choices of a people who have stressed that there is no freedom in a country that relies on food produced outside its borders and to attack a country which the reports of specialist agencies have admitted is able to surmount one of the most stifling economic crises witnessed by the contemporary world in spite of the blockade [as heard] boycott, and declared economic war by the United States, which has blatantly called on its allies to join. Thus, it is clear that the present U.S. campaign is not an innocent one. It falls within an organized campaign concocted in Washington, backed by local pawns in Egypt and other countries in the region, and blessed by the Zionists.

We repeat that we are pragmatic and objective and recognize only the language of facts and figures. We repeat that it was not us who signed the Camp David accords, who suppress demonstrations for bread in the country, who consult U.S. ambassadors to solve inflation problems, and who allow the International Monetary Fund to interfere in running the economy. We will not refrain from calling for unity and liberation of our Arab nation, nor will we rest until our pan-Arab aims, whether America likes them or not, have been achieved.

Iraqi Kurds Declare Unity With Pan-Arab Command

LD180956 Tripoli JANA in English 0906 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Rajab, 18 April, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Union (K.D.U.) declared its joining the National Command for the Arab Revolutionary Forces. The Iraqi K.D.U. in a cable sent to the leader of the revolution, confirmed their full readiness to actively contribute to the armed revolutionary struggle to realize the national goals for which the National Command for the Arab Revolutionary Forces was established.

Reagan, Bendjedid To Sign Cooperation Agreements

LD180857 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] American President Reagan, during his meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in the White House, said that the United States welcomes the strengthening of friendly relations between Algeria and America. President Reagan pointed out that later today he and the Algerian president will sign a number of agreements on setting up a joint American-Algerian economic committee, and an agreement on cultural exchanges. The U.S. government has agreed to sell American weapons to Algeria. The U.S. State Department announced that the U.S. government agreement was made on the decision of President Reagan on 10 April. A state department spokesman stated that the U.S. government will be looking into the list of weapons which Algeria wants in line with what he called America's interest in peace and stability in the region.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Receives U.S., USSR Ambassadors

LD180904 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II today received U.S. Ambassador Joseph Vernon Reed in the Royal Palace, Marrakech. After this meeting he received Malik Sabirovich Fazylov, the Soviet ambassador to Rabat.

SUDAN

AL-AYYAM Cited on Agreement Reached on Government

EA180607 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Today's issue of *AL-AYYAM* says it is expected that the formation of the transitional government will be announced today. The paper added that the Transitional Military Council [TMC] had received a list of names of the nominated [murashshahin] ministers of the government to be formed. There are 15 ministers in addition to the prime minister and his deputy.

The paper quoted (?a source) of the alliance of Trade Union's for National Salvation as saying that a number of meetings had been held [words indistinct] and that agreement had been arrived at [words indistinct] from all sides. The paper says the transitional government will be organized in accordance with the charter which has been agreed on between the leadership of the trade union alliance, the representatives of the political parties, and the TMC. The charter has been signed by more than 30 parties [words indistinct].

Chairman Revokes Decree Dividing Southern Region

EA171815 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] General 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council and commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, has stressed that integration between Sudan and Egypt rests on a solid, popular base and that the Sudanese and Egyptian (?authorities) did not add anything except the evaluation of the relationship between the two peoples. His excellency added that integration will continue until God inherits the earth and those on it. This was stated at his excellency's interview this afternoon at the General Command to a woman reporter of the Egyptian newspaper *AL-AHALI*.

His excellency denied the existence of any American bases in Sudan. He promised the newspaper's reporter that he will provide an aircraft to (Al-Sakkar) to ascertain this fact for herself.

On the other hand his excellency stated that he will revoke Decree No 1 on the division of the southern region into three regions because that is contradictory to the Addis Ababa accord. His excellency stressed that the revocation of Decree No 1 will strengthen confidence between the northerners and southerners, which will help in reaching a sound and collective decision through the conferences that will be held to discuss the southern problem.

Siwar al-Dhahab on Domestic, Foreign Issues

PM181036 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Apr 85 pp 1,2

[Interview with General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council, by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab and Muhammad Ahmad Hisham in Khartoum — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: So far you have been unable to form a government. What are the most important obstacles to you plan?

Answer: As you know, the government which is supposed to be formed within the next few days will face unique tasks in that it will be in office for a specific period of time, a transitional phase. It will have the task of enentually handing over power to the people, which means that elections will be held and many problems will have to be dealt with during this period. This requires executives of a special type, that is, executive ministers. These ministers must be impartial because preparations will have to be made for clean and impartial elections for the people in order to bring to the fore the people's real representatives at the end of the transitional period.

Moreover, those participating in the selection of individuals for the cabinet total some 36 political parties, trade unions, groups, and organizations. They have to agree on the names of 15 ministers for the cabinet. This is an important matter, and perhaps you realize the difficulty of agreeing on names that will satisfy such a diverse number of people.

Question: Do you believe that the problem of the south is an obstacle to your efforts to form a government?

Answer: I do not think that the question of the south is an obstacle because the southerners have their position in the cabinet, that is, a number of ministries have been reserved for the southerners-- three ministries to be exact. we will give them the freedom to choose their own ministers from all the trends in the south.

Question: Do you visualize any particular way to end the problem of the south?

Answer: In my view the solution should be based first on recognizing that a problem exists, and then by inviting all the parties, in both the north and the south, to a dialogue. This is a national problem that should beopen to discussion by all parties and for which radical solutions should be found to eliminate future problems. In other words, this problem should be solved in a radical manner.

Question: Numayri's regime has left a heavy legacy. How will you deal with it?

Answer: The legacy is primarily the heavy economic burden that we have inherited. We are suffering from a stifling economic crisis. We have begun an interim solution for this problem — a short-term solution to check the economic deterioration; a medium-term solution to revive the economy, restart the factories, and revive agriculture; and a long-term solution to launch the economy as was planned in the past period.

Question: Following the downfall of Numayri's regime both the East and the West have begun courting Sudan. Can you define for us the future of Sudan and its political outlook?

Answer: In the statement we issued on foreign policy we have made it abundantly clear that we will pursue a policy of nonalignment, and we will maintain excellent relations with all the world's countries and peoples.

Question: But some people believe that you will follow your predecessor's policy, namely that Sudan will remain loyal to the West.

Answer: There is great exaggeration in such statements. We will keep our friends and endeavor to repair relations and mend the rift with any country with whom our relations had deteriorated. We mean in particular the Soviet Union. We would like to have distinctive and good relations with the Soviet Union, as well as with those countries that used to adopt an attitude toward Sudan that, to say the least, was unfriendly. Frankly, we mean here Ethiopia and Libya.

Question: How will you end your problems with Libya and what will your future relations be?

Answer: In fact we have been aware that the strain in the relations between the two countries was basically due to personal enmity between the former president and Chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. With the departure of the former president and his regime the causes of the strain in the otherwise excellent relations between the two peoples have been removed and relations will be restored as they were before.

Question: Within the context of your desire to conclude a new deal with Ethiopia does this mean that you will stop backing the Eritrean organizations whose presence in Sudan represent a major obstacle to the improvement of bilateral relations?

Answer: I would like to stress one thing here — that we do not support these organization or give them shelter on our territory. By shelter I mean camps for the rebels to train in and positions from which they can launch attacks against Ethiopia from inside Sudanese territory. This does not happen. I challenge anybody who claims otherwise.

Whoever makes such allegations should come here and then go with us to show material proof that such thing exists. We adhere to the principles of good neighborliness and are very anxious to maintain them. What there is on our territory are refugee camps under UN supervision.

Question: There has been a change in the Syrian stand toward Sudan. Syria has recognized you, and what is interesting is that President al-Asad was in contact with you. What happened and how do you visualize future relations?

Answer: President al-Asad contacted me and expressed his good wishes for the success of the revolution, for which I thanked him. We will endeavor to improve relations with Syria. I believe that the reasons for the previous enmity could be attributed to the person of President Numayri.

Question: Your attitude toward the question of the Falashas is still not clear, although they were taken abroad with the help of Numayri.

Answer: We in the Armed Forces knew nothing about this matter. We only heard about it. We will open the file on this question and investigate it. The Armed Forces had nothing whatsoever to do with it.

Question: What about the implementation of Islamic Shari'a in Sudan?

Answer: I believe that Shari'a will remain. If there is any revision to be made it will concern such legislation as is not in accordance with the Islamic Shari'a's spirit.

Question: General Siwar al-Dhahab, let me ask you frankly: Were you as a citizen, before being an official, satisfied with President Numayri's policy regarding the implementation of Shari'a?

Answer: I thought that Shari'a or rather the legislation on it needed to be revised before being implemented because you find that many of the criminal law articles provide for punishment by flogging whereas in Islamic Shari'a flogging is mentioned only in connection with drunkenness and other such crimes. In this country flogging was used as punishment for many crimes, which is contrary to the spirit of Islam.

Chairman on Possible Numayri Trial, Falashas

GF171500 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Apr 85 pp 1, 26

[Report by *AL-ANBA'* correspondent in Khartoum Ahmad Hanqah and "news agencies"]

[Excerpt] General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council and commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, has announced that the new leadership will give a full opportunity to the justice and judiciary organs to try deposed President Ja'far Numayri.

Answering a question put by *AL-ANBA'* during a press conference that was held yesterday — the second since the military coup — about the possibilities of putting Numayri on trial even in his absence, he said: This is the right of the Sudanese people represented by the judiciary and justice organs. But he affirmed that so far he has not asked Egypt to hand over Numayri.

In his press conference, General Siwar al-Dhahab said that the new leadership will open a file on the conspiracy concerning the

emmigration of the Ethiopian Jews -- the Falashas -- to occupied Palestine via Sudanese territories, a conspiracy in which Numayri was involved with Israel and the CIA. He said: We will soon open the whole file onf this case to investigate the matter.

Ummah Party Leader on Shari'a, Muslim Brotherhood

NC171641 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Apr (MENA) — Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Sudanese Al-Ummah Party, today praised Egyptian-Sudanese relations. During his meeting with a number of Egyptian journalists today, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi pointed out that the former regime committed a number of mistakes which led to the popular revolution. He said that these mistakes included the laws and measures taken in 1983 concerning the south, which led to the rebellion there.

Regarding the implementation of Islamic law, the leader of the Al-Ummah Party said: We call for the implementation of Islamic law in a correct way. The source of law is the Koran and the Sunna. We must save Islam from the woes of the experiment applied by the former regime. He criticized the Muslim Brotherhood because it kept silent and accepted the faulty conditions and even condoned them.

Al-Mahdi affirmed his full confidence in the Sudanese Armed Forces, because they represent the safety and security valve in the period through which Sudan is passing. He said that their task is to intervene to establish security and peace in all parts of the homeland.

AL-MUSAWWAR Interviews Siwar al-Dhahab

NC180608 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council [TMC], welcomes a visit to Khartoum by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He emphasized Egyptian-Sudanese relations are historic and eternal and that the people of Sudan and Egypt share the same fate and the same aspirations. During an exclusive interview with *AL-MUSAWWAR* to be published on Friday, General Siwar al-Dhahab affirmed that Sudan is seeking good relations with everyone. He pointed out that the 6 April revolution in Sudan was an expression of the masses' hopes and aspirations. He also stated that the dialogue between the Military Council and Sudan's political parties demonstrates solidarity.

General Siwar al-Dhahab also indicated that he welcomes the establishment of parties in Sudan, including the Communist Party. He welcomes all political forces. He added: We are preparing for free and honest elections. The people will elect representatives to parliament to form the government they prefer. Then the TMC will transfer power to the masses following a specific transition period.

General Siwar al-Dhahab asserted that the priorities of the TMC include stopping the country's economic deterioration and rescuing the economy, first through our own efforts and then through aid from our brothers and friends.

He stated that he is working to solve the problem of the south democratically. He said: We are trying through dialogue to reach a solution with the southerners.

General Siwar al-Dhahab also indicated that the Falasha issue will be investigated and that all who are responsible for smuggling the Falasha Jews from Khartoum will be held responsible.

Siwar al-Dhahab Receives Check From Omani Bank

JN171030 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, Apr 17 (SUNA) — Chairman of the Transitional Military Council Gen Siwar al-Dhahab yesterday received a cheque of L.S. 100,000 from Oman bank in Sudan as contribution to the fund for the salvation of the national economy.

Chairman Cables Syria's Al-Asad on National Day

JN171601 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Apr (SUNA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council, in the name of the Sudanese people and on behalf of the Council, has sent a cable of congratulations to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the national day of fraternal Syria.

In the cable, he expressed hope that Syria and its fraternal people will enjoy strength and immunity in order to serve the Arab nation's causes represented by unity, freedom, progress, and the liberation of the usurped land from the claws of Zionism.

TMC Member on Mubarak Reaction to Council's Letter

EA171059 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Engineer Lieutenant General Muhammad Tawfiq Khalil, member of the Transitional Military Council [TMC], returned yesterday evening to Khartoum from the Arab Republic of Egypt after delivering a personal letter from the council to President Husni Mubarak.

In a press statement after his meeting with President Mubarak his excellency said that the letter contained a briefing on the situation in the country following the establishment of security and the reaching of an agreement by the Armed Forces and the national grouping regarding commencement of the implementation of the steps of the transitional stage, whose latest developments are reaching specific proposals on the formation of a new government. [sentence as heard] He said that President Mubarak expressed satisfaction with the contents of the letter and expressed his complete satisfaction with the course of events in Sudan. He said that he received the response expected from President Mubarak and Egyptian Government officials.

In response to questions his excellency said that the tasks of the transitional period have been specified, but not its duration. He added that the TMC made it quite clear in its statements that the recent developments in Sudan's relations with neighboring

countries will not affect its relations with Egypt, and the two sides agree on its eternal characteristics.

He said that all previous agreements, pacts and accords between the two countries will remain in effect. He said that the moral support that Sudan has been receiving from Egypt has continued throughout [words indistinct], and that President Mubarak stressed this in their meeting yesterday. He said that Sudan greatly appreciates Egypt's stand.

His excellency announced that the TMC has declared that there will be democratic rule in Sudan, this will apply to the freedom of expression and press, and all hindrance and obstacles to this will be removed.

U.S. Organization To Continue Aid to Kordofan

JN171603 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Apr (SUNA) — The U.S. organization, CARE, has announced that it will continue to extend assistance to the Kordofan Region and will implement all its program in the region. This came during a meeting here yesterday between Major General Mustafa Mahmud, commander of the Central Region, and a delegation from the organization. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the organization's relief aid and other assistances to the region.

It is noteworthy that the commanders of the military areas were entrusted to run government in the regions under Communique No 2 that relieved the regions' governors of their posts.

Italian Government Writes Off Overdue Debts

LD172034 Khartoum SUNA in English 1727 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, April 17 (SUNA) The Italian Government has decided to drop Sudan's overdue debts for the year 1983-1984 as a positive move from the Italian Government towards Sudan and its readiness with the European Economic Community, EEC, to boost and back Sudan.

The Italian ambassador to Khartoum, chairman of the EEC ambassadors group in Sudan and the EEC resident representative today informed the chairman of the Transmitional Military Council [TMC] 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab by Italian and EEC's decision.

TMC Chairman Siwar al-Dhahab handed a message to the Italian ambassador to be delivered to the headquarters of the EEC expressing his deep appreciation over the Italian Government's positive stand affirming in the same time the Sudan's commitment towards Lome third accord.

He also hailed the EEC positive contribution during Geneva conference which was held on Africa's urgent situations affirming the necessity of speeding up the implementation of pledges vowed during Geneva conference particularly in the field of transport and the rehabilitation of the productive projects and the preparation for the agricultural new season.

The TMC chairman also called for an EEC contribution in laying down long-term solutions to the problems resulted from the drought and desertification affirming his personal concern over the work of the national committee to combat the consequences of drought and desertification.

In his turn the Italian ambassador and the resident representative of the EEC have pledged to convey the outcome of this meeting to the headquarter of the EEC.

Khartoum Offers Deal to Ethiopia on Guerrillas

EA171931 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Latest reports from Khartoum says Sudan's 15-man ruling military council has offered to cut its support for anti-Ethiopian guerrilla groups operating from bases inside Sudan in exchange for an end to Ethiopian backing for Sudanese secessionist rebels.

Major General Faris 'Abdallah Husni, who is a member of the council told Army officers in Juba the council was sending representatives to Ethiopia to discuss the offer. He said Sudan will not allow any political activity against another country on condition that other countries followed suit.

At least two major anti-Ethiopian guerrilla groups are said to operate from bases in Sudan while the Sudan People's Liberation Army has bases in western Ethiopia. Observers say a mutual agreement between Sudan and Ethiopia to end their support for the various rebel factions would go a long way to end rebellion in the two countries.

TMC To Prevent Activity Hostile to Foreign Countries

EA171103 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] In a press statement yesterday in Juba, Staff Brigadier General Faris 'Abd al-Rahman, member of the Transitional Military Council said that Sudan will prevent the exercise of any political activity hostile to any country from within Sudan providing that other countries follow the same policy vis-a-vis Sudan. He pointed out that delegations which will pay visits to some countries will stress this policy.

SUNA on Constitution for Transitional Period

JN171558 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Apr (SUNA) — A constitutional committee held a meeting here today in the presence of Brigadier Ahmad Mahmud Hasan, member of the Political Committee, to study all the loopholes in the 1956 Constitution that was amended in 1964. The committee agreed on general principles within the framework of the March-April popular revolution. A subcommittee was entrusted to present an integrated plan to the mother committee next Sunday.

Brigadier Ahmad Mahmud Hasan announced that the constitutional committee will present a draft constitution to the Transi-

tional Military Council next week that will be acceptable to all parties in the political arena in order to be approved as a constitutional declaration or statement for the next transitional period.

He also said that the committee had entrusted the political committee to study the constitutional situation of the transitional period within the framework of politics, the trade unions grouping, and the People's Armed Forces.

Regarding the members of the constitutional committee, he explained that they will represent existing political trends.

Dismissed Government Employees To Be Reinstated

JN171618 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Apr (SUNA) — The executive committee for reinstating those dismissed from service during the defunct dictatorial regime has submitted a memo to the Transitional Military Council [TMC] demanding the issuance of a political decision immediately reinstating all those who were dismissed from their jobs in the public and private sectors, including the martyrs, in order to guarantee the rights of their families.

The committee also demanded the cancellation of all arbitrary dismissal decisions that were issued since the beginning of the defunct May authority until 5 April 1985 and the guaranteeing of all rights of the dismissed persons.

The committee's memo called on the TMC to issue a decision and to make the executive committee for reinstating those dismissed responsible for all pertinent cases.

The committee appeals to the competent quarters to give those students who were dismissed from their universities and colleges for political reasons, especially the students of Juba University, the chance to return to their studies.

The signatories also affirmed that they were one of the sectors that confronted the toppled butcher during his tyrannical and oppressive actions, a fact that prompted the defunct regime to make them homeless under unjust laws and empty slogans such as the public interest, the reduction of the work force, the cancellation of jobs, the transformation of the public sector into companies, the liquidation of factories under presidential decrees, and the 1981 individual work relations law that made thousands homeless.

They also stressed that the energies [as received] that were paralyzed by the defunct regime are eager to participate in efforts to honor the homeland by increasing work and production.

It is noteworthy that the executive committee for reinstating those dismissed from service was formed by the General Assembly during its meeting in Khartoum on 14 April.

AFP: Southerners Demand Repeal of Islamic Law

NC171851 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, April 17 (AFP) — Southern Sudanese politicians today presented the country's new military rulers with five conditions for their participation in a transitional government due to pave the way for free elections in Sudan. The list of conditions includes the immediate repeal of Islamic (Shari'a) laws, at least in the primarily Christian and animist south, and the appointment of five southerners to the 15-member transitional cabinet.

Walter Kunijwok, southern leader of the Khartoum Residents Committee, said he handed the list of southerners' conditions to the Transitional Military Council headed by General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab early today. Gen Siwar al-Dhahab said late yesterday that the creation of a transitional government would be announced "within two days."

Observers here said the southern demands appeared to be the main remaining obstacle to forming the government following an agreement in principle on the matter between the military and an alliance of unions and political parties. The civilian groups and military had been negotiating over the makeup of a civilian-military cabinet since shortly after the April 6 coup which toppled President Ja'far Numayri. The two sides agreed that 10 ministers would be chosen by the unions and parties and five by the military. Three of the posts were to go to southerners. The transitional government is to rule for 12 months until free elections can be held.

A list of 10 civilian nominees handed to the military Sunday showed that all major portfolios would go to union and party candidates, except for defense and the interior, which would be taken by military or police officers. This proposed split of key portfolios was at the center of the southern complaints embodied in the conditions submitted today. Those demands included setting aside for a southern candidate at least one of the ministries touching on national sovereignty — foreign affairs, defense, interior, justice or prime minister — and one key economic posting.

The final demand was a lesser role for Moslems in the transitional cabinet than that embodied in the candidates list presented this weekend by the union-party alliance. The final demand appeared above all targetted at the two men deemed most likely to be appointed prime minister, Doctor's Union President Daf'Allah Jazuli and Lawyer Leader Mirghani Nasri.

Mr Kunijwok, who said he was not a member of Sudanese People's Liberation Movement which has led a two-year armed rebellion in the south, said both candidates were "too marked" by their Islamic affiliations. The southern rebellion, sparked in part by Marshal Numayri's 1983 imposition of strict Shari'a law across the country, played a key role in paving the way for the former president's downfall.

Meanwhile, a deadline set by rebel leader John Garang for a return to civilian rule expired last night but the rebel radio monitored here today made no mention of the ultimatum.

Politicians in South Examine Constitutional issues
EA171942 Khartoum SUNA in English 1805 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Apr (SUNA) — The preparatory committee of the south political groupings has held a press conference here today attended by representatives of local and foreign media.

In the outset of the conference, Samuel Aro, who is chairman of the preparatory committee, has welcomed in the name of the south political grouping all steps taken for realizing the peoples will by launching the 6th of October [1964] uprising. Aro also raised many points among which he emphasized the commitment of the south political grouping to the principal of national unity, explaining that national unity could be preserved and maintained within the context of (?race) and culture diversity.

During the transitional period Samuel Aro called for putting into effect the 1956 Constitution amended in 1964 for administering the country. He also called for the abolishing of the Islamic laws (Shari'a) applied in Sept 1983, referring to the southerners desire to create an acceptable balance in the representation of the south in the various national institutions by taking into consideration its size and its distinguished identity.

The committees chairman urged the Transitional Military Council to revive the Addis Ababa agreement and establish a caretaker government in the south to contribute in returning peace and stability to the south.

Finally Aro referred to the necessity of opening direct channels of contact with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) for reaching a peaceful settlement to the south problem.

Grouping member Ajack Deng said that they call for the separation of religion and state and establishment of a secular state under which all are equal in rights and duties.

Answering a question on the contacts carried with Colonel John Garang, Peter Jatcoth said that dr Garang is preparing a program to reform the political situation in the country. Jatcoth added that the political alliance as part of the Sudanese nation tries to find solutions for the southern problem.

Answering a question on the possibility of the southern region being unified, grouping member Azboni Mondiri said the partition of the south was decreed by a republican decree from the defunct regime against the will of its people.

Alliance member William Deng explained that Addis Ababa accord is a separate legal document which can be put into effect as a law. "A work charter should be issued in the transitional period," Deng added.

Upper Nile Committee Calls For Numayri's Trial
JN181043 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Malakal, Rajab 27, April 18, (SUNA) — The steering committee of Upper Nile region had demanded repatriation of deposed President Ja'far Numayri from Egypt to stand trial.

The committee which met yesterday with the area's military commander Major General 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Salih also called for declaring abolition of Islamic Shari'a laws.

The committee also called for cease-fire and a general amnesty for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and its political wing Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in order to start negotiations with them and other factions.

It also called for representing the south by one third of the ministries in the transitional civilian government and that the ministers should not be appointed but selected by the region's masses.

Islamic Trend Hold Political Seminar 16 Apr
JN171138 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Apr (SUNA) — The Islamic trend held a political seminar here last night. Dr al-Turabi, Dr Su'ad al-Fatih, Yasin 'Umar al-Imam, and Hafiz al-Shaykh al-Zaki participated in the seminar.

In his speech, Dr al-Turabi touched on the distinguished relations between Sudan and Egypt. He called for the normalization of relations between Sudan and the USSR, Iran, Libya, and all the neighboring states. He also referred to the United States' hostile policy toward these states - a policy that has affected Sudan's policy during the defunct regime's era.

Dr al-Turabi also dealt with the role of the Islamic Movement since the beginning of the defunct May era, and the movement's struggle against all the parties and movements that oppose the Islamic Movement. He praised the democratic atmosphere the Transitional Military Council has provided so as to allow all parties to exercise the freedom of expression and opinion.

Students in UK, Ireland, France Support Uprising
JN151606 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Apr 85

[Text] London, Paris, 15 Apr (SUNA) — The General Union of the Sudanese Students in the United Kingdom and Ireland has greeted the Sudanese people on their uprising and expressed support for the armed Forces' move, in solidarity with the brave popular uprising, to end bloodshed, safeguard the country's security and stability, and preserve the unity of Sudan's Army, people, and territory.

In a memorandum submitted to the Sudanese Embassy in London, the union also stressed its support for efforts to achieve democracy, solve complicated problems, purge the corrupt agents from public life, and preserve the country's independent political decisionmaking by establishing balanced domestic and foreign relations. The union also called on the masses of our people to cooperate through dialogue and serious work in order to overcome the difficulties of this critical stage in our country's history.

In another development, the acting charge d'affaires and cultural adviser at the Sudanese Embassy in Paris met recently with a delegation representing the Executive Committee of the Suda-

nese Students Union in France. During this meeting, the union submitted a memorandum to the embassy in which it greeted the Sudanese people's struggle against all forms of tyranny and dictatorship. It also greeted the struggle and the steadfastness of the martyrs who confronted injustice and dictatorship. The union also called for the independence of the judiciary, the supremacy of the law, the guarantee of all freedoms, and the liquidation of the defunct regime's institutions. It also called for transferring power to the people, trying and punishing those who benefited from the defunct regime, and capturing the fugitives. It also called for solving the problem of the South in a national and democratic way. It also called on the Sudanese people to be alert in order to foil all attempts to contain and abort the revolution.

Popular Socialist Front Issues Statement

GF141640 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudanese Popular Revolution in Arabic 0645 GMT 14 Apr 85

[Statement issued by Sudanese Popular Socialist Front — the Movement of the Revolutionary Committees, read by Secretary General 'Abdallah Zakariyah Idris — date, place not given]

[Text] To our revolutionary masses in Sudan and Egypt. The Sudanese and Egyptian people raised the slogan of joint struggle since the 1940s and this slogan is the real and sole political translation of the eternal relations between the two peoples of the Nile Valley, which united us in a struggle through our joint history in order to realize our targets for freedom, socialism and comprehensive Arab unity from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

To our revolutionary popular masses in Sudan and Egypt. We have often affirmed the popular unity between Sudan and Egypt. We have often warned against the consequences of the support of the Egyptian regime to the regime of the agent Ja'far Numayri. We have often affirmed that the regime of the buried Al-Sadat and Husni Mubarak, the Camp David regime, inflicts the most serious harm on Sudanese-Egyptian relations and we have often called on the Egyptian regime to stand by the Sudanese people in their crisis, caused by the corrupt, bloody agent regime of Ja'far Numayri in order to maintain eternal relations between the two peoples of the Nile Valley.

Unfortunately, the unblessed Egyptian regime committed the greatest historic crime against the Sudanese and Egyptian people by its opportunist support for the fallen Ja'far Numayri and his gang and with the mentality of the pharaohs, khedives, pashas exploited the weakness of the fallen regime of Ja'far Numayri and his total popular isolation. The unblessed Al-Sadatist Egyptian regime imposed its tutelage on Sudan and assigned itself to Sundan's protection and are unable to defend themselves and their land.

To our revolutionary masses in Sudan and Egypt. The Egyptian people, represented by their political, national and progressive organizations, had reservations on the policies of the unblessed Al-Sadatist Egyptian regime, supporting the regime of the agent Ja'far Numayri in order to safeguard the joint interests of the peoples. And today, by the support of the Egyptian political national and progressive powers for the victory of popular revolution in Sudan through popular mass festivals in Cairo, the Egyptian national powers once again affirmed the mistake and danger of the historic treachery committed by the unblessed Al-Sadatist regime, with his hostility against the Sudanese people and its alliance with the fascist and agent May gang. And today, the document of Sudanese-Egyptian relations has been reopened on the level of the masses in Sudan which was called for by the leadership of the trade unions in order to reformulate the basis of the struggle relations between the Sudanese and Egyptian people in accordance with the slogan of joint struggle to realize the supreme targets of our immortal Arab nation, through the following principles:

The first principle is the principle of amicability in relations between the Sudanese and Egyptian people. Sudan is an upright sovereign country and the Sudanese people are good people and are not subservient. They define their foreign relations with total freedom in accordance with their Arab and African heritage. From here, the Sudanese people refuse the imperialist view of the Egyptian bourgeoisie, khedivism and pashaism which once again came into being in Egypt as a result of the policy of openness toward the international imperialism and international capitalism. This sick Egyptian bourgeoisie dream of ruling Sudan and turning it into an Egyptian territory. The most dangerous aspect of this Egyptian imperialist and bourgeoisie view is that it sees Sudan only as a land of forests and rivers as if the Sudanese people did not exist. And if the fallen agent Ja'far Numayri has encouraged this view toward our people, the Sudanese people proved their existence to the entire world on 6 April.

The second principle is the principle of non-alignment, which was declared by the 6 April revolution and which honestly translates the principled stances of the Sudanese people, which is summarized in the following:

1. Sudan's links to the nonaligned countries at the Bandung conference in 1955 prior to its independence;
2. Formation of a committee for defense of the Arab fatherland in Sudan following the tripartite attack in 1956 and the principle of protecting Egypt's rear lines and the July revolution of 'Abd al-Nasir;
3. The struggle against the imperialist and reactionary U.S.-Baghdad alliance, the fall of which the Sudanese people contributed in 1957;
4. The struggle against the imperialist, U.S. reactionary Eisenhower plan to fill the vacuum in 1958;
5. The struggle against the Islamic-imperialist-U.S. reactionary alliance which was proposed by the United States as a substitute to the Baghdad alliance and against which the Sudanese people struggled along with the immortal leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir until it fell;
6. The rejection by the Sudanese people of the imperialist and reactionary plan for an African-U.S. link desired by the United States as an imperialist alliance extending from the west of Africa to the Horn of Africa;
7. Rejection of the imperialist U.S. four-point plan in 1957 which collapsed in 1959 following the rule of General 'Abbud;
8. Sudan's participation in the Nonaligned Movement in 1960;
9. Sudan's joining the OAU in 1964.

These are the principled stances of the Sudanese people in their abidance of the policy of nonalignment and it is possible to have relations with the Egyptian regime only after the Egyptian regime adopts a policy of nonalignment and until it is cleansed of the imperialist, U.S., and Zionist hegemony.

The third principle is that the joint defense between Sudan and Egypt should be within the framework of the holy struggle of our Arab nation aimed at liberating Palestine inch by inch until Palestine becomes Arabic. We reject the joint defense agreement imposed by the buried Al-Sadat in light of the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary Camp David agreement which turned Egypt into a U.S.-Zionist colony and was about to turn Sudan into an imperialist U.S.-Zionist-Egyptian colony which was signed in the absence of the Sudanese and Egyptian people. We reject the joint defense agreement between the unblessed Al-Sadatist regime and the regime of fallen Ja'far Numayri because it is against the political directions of our people, our people in Khartoum. No recognition, no negotiation, and no conciliation with the Zionist enemy!

Today, the masses of the October and April revolution add a fourth no: No to the agent and capitulatory regime in Egypt which betrayed the people of famous Khartoum. If this is the stance of the Sudanese people on Palestine, the central cause of the Arab nation, then there is no relation with the Egyptian regime which committed the biggest national treachery by recognizing the Zionist entity usurping Arab Palestine. We reveal that the escalation of struggle by our popular Sudanese masses and the victory of their popular revolution on 6 April is an affirmation to the revolutionary cohesion with the free people in Egypt and its martyrs who executed the sentence of the Arab people against the traitor Al-Sadat on 3 October. Let us march forward and the revolutionary struggle is continuing.

[Signed] The Sudanese Popular Socialist Front -- the Movement of the Revolutionary Committees

Equatoria Army Commander on Post-Coup Situation

EA161324 Juba Domestic Service in English 1315 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Address by Commander of Equatoria military area Major General Peter Cirillo to regional directors general and directors at the Regional Executive Council Main House, Khartoum, on 10 April — recorded]

[Text] Your excellencies, directors general, it gives me great pleasure at this moment to be the Army officer on behalf of the Army High Command in the General Headquarters. I sincerely extend the greetings of the commander in chief and Army General Staff to all of you. On this occasion, I think it is a must for us in the Army here, and for myself in particular, to give a briefing to you simply of what is expected for us to do, what is expected for us to carry on, basing it on the last changes in the country of which you are well informed, no doubt and it is a necessity that we should be clear-minded about it.

I have been given the duty to make clarification on our mission here. First of all I would like to say that the Army commander in this area has been vested with the authority of the governor of Equatoria Region. He is not the governor, neither is he a military governor, because that has been; there is no assignment or something that has come clearly to this effect but of course it is very clear that anything respecting the authority of the governor will be vested in the Army commander himself, whether he is me or anybody else.

Gentlemen, I think that you are very clear of the new state of affairs now. The situation is as follows: After these demonstrations against the past regime, greater changes have taken place in the structure of the country. The Army decided to take over the country. This was not a thing that emanated or may desire to rule the Sudan as a military mission or something of the sort. But rather, this was taken as a step to deflect the country from calamity and was about almost to take in Khartoum. That was the reason. That situation was very serious. I was there. I did go there on our own military problems but during that week events were moving very fast. Demonstrations were very heavy in the streets and it started to swell bit by bit and for about 6 days it reached the peak. It reached a crossroad where a decision was wanted.

I think of course many of you have lived, we have lived together in the former revolution of 1964, at least I can say for those whom I have seen here, except I have the younger chaps who recently took up. But those of us who have seen the October Revolution at that time, that situation is three times greater and more explosive than October. So I think to that level the people and the Armed Forces also were watching closely and they were observing exactly the structure of that move.

As you know the Army is not at all an alien to gatherings of people in the Sudan. But they are also part of the people. We are sons of our grandfathers here, sons of our fathers here, we are brothers here and we take a side some work for the Sudan.

You also have some work for the Sudan and these are joined up somewhere for one country and the Army has always been part and parcel of the Sudan and has always been prepared to pay the greatest sacrifice before all Sudanese. So in that respect I think it was a just move by the Army, after studying everything, to see that the situation had to be defused as fast as possible.

By the sixth, I could say, to go in a summary method, by the sixth of this month, the situation arrived at the peak where the swelling procession of demonstrations has now taken very big size. An entire civil disobedience gripped the entire capital. Several working men or organizations, workers and so forth, professional people, intelligentsia started to also have take part in it and the situation became much more grave.

And of course they were now putting in demands, exact demands which they see that it is a necessity to be carried out. One of these demands was of course the president himself. But even if prior to that the cry has been the cost of items, essential items and the like and so forth, because anybody knowing the Sudanese people themselves and their history and so forth. One could say that this was only a jumping off ground to the real thing. We all in the Army continued to watch. I happened to be there luckily enough and we were there watching the situation. Our High Command

was very vigilant about it and constantly we had briefings every time also as the situation was moving.

On the sixth exactly, the High Command, under the leadership of Lieutenant General Siwar al-Dhahab, announced the seizure of power of the country and to defuse the situation which was going to lead to loss of lives, properties and maybe the dimensions were not at all apprehensive, nobody could apprehend and the situation if it get all exploded. It could have exploded further. So I think that the decision of the Army at that was demanded and it was demanded by the population. It was demanded by the masses, all. The general masses who are moving to get everything to their desire.

So the Army, after reading all the manifestos that were every time coming up from the strikers and demonstrations, the Army took over and announced at once on the sixth. That was I think before 5 o'clock if I have a good memory. The (?popular) declaration, of course, I think you know about it. And furthermore other declarations followed. But I must say that the situation which was already in the hands of the Army and the public and the people on the other side did not just finish by the first declaration because there were also certain things from the organizations, leaders of workers and so on, all the masses, and they had certain things to do.

Steps started to move gradually and of course the high demand of the population of the disbandment of the national security. They demanded that the national security must be disbanded without delay. They also put demands for anyone who was connected strongly in any way with the past that measures must be taken specially for people who are particularly known. They know themselves and the public or the population in the three towns are aware of it. The Army is aware of it and of course, under this situation also, the Army could not see that from time to time it will only see demands and does something to it. This would be dangerous of course because mistakes can be committed also. The Army decided to take a correct course of studying everything and moving towards it. Of course this as you know a decree came out or rather a declaration to deal away with the nation's security.

This does not mean that the state security system as such will not exist: Not of course. Any state has got a security system in its own form. But I think the people felt that this very system seemed to have been directed to a particular direction. It seemed to have been placed to look toward a particular direction and to execute its missions in this and that (?I suppose). Everybody I think is aware about it. We all know about it. and what was coming out from the people what we already know, but it came out in action in the three towns. And this happens of course. Measures are going on [illegible] that in Khartoum and this is to happen all over of course in the country. This is not brief.

Any other declarations or communiques that have been issued, you are all in possession of them and they are all being documen) ted and I think that it is the duty of you gentlemen here to see such situations which come out from the Army High Command are given the greatest publicity possible depending on the resources you have in your hands. I need not narrate all those things which will take for greater part of the situations which we wanted to go ahead with.

With us here in Equatoria, in the area here in our military area, in the Equatoria Region here, of course there was no better way to go ahead with what is going on in Khartoum other than the methods we have adopted. These are methods of course. You have your methods which are sometimes very long and sometimes forces several things to disappear. We do not blame anybody for it; different systems, civil systems, are like that. But we thought to apply this system of ours in this particular juncture to finish up quickly with your help. With all your possible resources so that we are over and the world goes on concurrently to the end with the resources you have and we will start to do business toward, of course, the general good of our people here in the area.

We created, or, on my arrival here yesterday and the day before, I found that the officer in command here already made committees for several sectors of your work or other sectors that tend to involve a lot of things, and unless we become clear about it we also on our side will commit mistakes. This is a thing of course we don't think that this should happen if we really go gradually and we go concretely with our objectives to heed at, we will achieve that.

But it would not do. So we just go in and begin to go about messing with documents, papers and so forth, the like, up and down, and making all the appeaarance that might be injurious. So we have created a military committee, they will go on punching on each department and that will mainly depend on you gentlemen. And certainly which we know you are ready to cooperate, ready to work, you have now taken the positions at the present time, of the former ministers, with the former cabinet who are doing their job here and you are solely as has been declared and came out in all documents and statements, you are totally responsible for running the system which your predecessors were doing before.

We aim you have an authority of directing business. We in the Army here, the Army officers here or the commanding officer here whoever he is, myself or you people here, their time will be based on with the question of directing these resources, these situations toward a definite goal. From this I think that is being achieved and it has been achieved all already, these committees are going on and they are not meant to, they are not going against anybody. I would not want to find out or to see a lot of fear [words indistinct] anything at all giving or striving panic in any person for no reason. There is nothing of this sort.

The state of emergencies, even those happening in the Sudan very many years ago, but they all take different forms starting from about dictatorship so and so. All these took separate directions also but emergency is always there for the Army; it is meant only to protect the Sudan. To keep the stability. To keep internal security. To see that the system run. To see that no destruction happens at all to people's property, property of the public, property of individuals and so on. To see that nobody is molested and all of these. This is still the thing.

For us in the Equatoria Region especially, because it is a peaceful area, this should be an atmosphere in which, if we have the resources, if you have the resources, we should be able to prepare

certain stages. If it is for 6 months, okay. At least we will make a show at that time. You have to make a show at that time and we would like to say that they are completely different between you and those who are administering you before here. And that difference can be only shown by you yourself. These are all in your hands and we are here, the committees are here because in the Army we depend on d'etas. [as heard] We depend on planning, we depend on scientific methods of dealing with any situation. We stick to it because we think that we should get results If we don't get the results it is true that you may not have resources. You may not have the individual to do so. You may not have the person who is interested for that direction. He may be interested for something else. This is why we do our work so in Army and anybody who goes away from that (?target) in the Army of course we find such a situation.

But this has nothing to do with any work which you people are doing now in favor of us all in the country, in the southern region, in Equatoria Region and entire Sudan are carrying out ther normal life, depending on the conditions in each area, in each region. And I think that conditions differ from this region to other regions. You know it better than myself and there is nothing one should ask to this.

But one thing is clear though, that the people in the region here are people who have arrived a certain level. They have arrived atcertain level of development of understanding of education, of culture. The level they have arrived is conducive to get ahead. I don't know about other areas. But during the past years one may not be clear as what this may be or that may be and so forth. But with us here we are very clear in the Equatoria Region and this was mostly, of course, due to your work. This change has brought the following: After finishing with the military committee, this change has brought the following. The former ministers will be detained, thoroughly, in their houses; they are already actually detained. the governor is not already detained in Khartoum: On his arrival he will be detained.

The action on [words indistinct] is going on and we have already received instructions from Khartoum as what to do of course, and that is something else, but for all purposes you must know that all (?districts) will follow exactly what is happening in Khartoum. In the case of [words indistinct] who is in that, or rather, who is anxious to vindicate any person. But we are only trying to see that the war goes as it should be now at this level.

So, in this, these people will continue to be detained for two reasons only. First of all for their safety, from quarters perhaps who may be interested to have something to do with them in their person and so forth. And this was very obvious in Khartoum. That was the reason of the arrest of that group which had to be detained and finally to be sent to jail, all. So that for their security and also to be known, to be accounted for. There is such very big call from the public, and this is not a thing, which as rumor may go, that a person will be done so or he has been put in prison for so and so forth a reason. No, this must be done, because that was what the people demanded for this is the reason. because the Army immediately found that it was the people, and they had to rhyme with the people. The Army must perform only the wish of the people, the wish of the Sudanese people.

That is all, and nothing else, even here, and this goes to other regions. We must just perform the wish of our people, and nobody elses. So that there is no visualization of bad stage performances or something of that sort for this cleaning things and so forth. There is nothing of this sort. Things are adjusted like that has brought daylight. This is going to be in that manner. As the committees, as the military committees go on, if is there anything clear they have found, of course, action will be taken immediately. If there is anything they have found, a danger to anything of the public, or so on or any sort, immediately, of course, action will be taken.

We have rounded up certain mechanical transport of yours which used to belong or to be used in the past by administrators or ministers. We have rounded them up for several reasons. For the safety of these equipments and also for their maintenance. Also we, as military committees, want to know what did you have yourselves. what did you have as resources in this particular sector, the communication equipment. We want to know. We want to know, because we are documenting this and we are answerable to General Headquarters. That is one thing. Secondly, also we would like to know whether there has been also violations or acquisitions of these properties in one form or the other and so forth, and of course, if we know, immediately we will take it up, whether it belongs in the house, we will take it up, including in the public place and events will run accordingly on that respect.

We have planned that for all the measures, all the volumes of work you are doing, all the cars that you need, that this sort of duty should go, they will always becoming to your hand. But we have to be sure about that. Things will come in that manner gradually. There will be no ministry here, where we intend to cease all its [words indistinct] for any other reason, never. But as the committees continue in getting over with this things, all the situations will be remedied and of course the people should remedy them. First, you yourselves, there is no way. All these things will be based in your own capacities. This will be run on your shoulders.

It will be from you that we all know the design of whatever matter should be carried out. This is so far as our duties are concerned. These measures, the committees are doing are simply the sort we speak as you said in your language, we are taking stock. We are taking stock of what was there with you in the past. Who had it? In what way? In what form? In what dimension? and so on. This is the thing. In this I say we tend to go with it very dynamically and we don't want to meet any often. We will rid any obstacles, hinderances as a camouflage an we will rid actually something of course that will lead to the disappearance of our informational which we need from you. and, of course, this is very dangerous. So we need informational from you in all respect, and you must give us because you had authority before and now you have authority also throughout. But we need information so that we can act upon well. So that we do not injure any innocent person.

This is the thing. We want to be like this in our methods, we want to be like this because we do not think that it is fair that we should keep back information because there is appreciation that somebody will be injured by such an information, and so and so forth. If you appreciate that person will be hurt by such an information,

I think it will be your bound to duty, it should be your patriotic duty to release these informations so that such a thing goes to the interest of the people and so on. That is all what we want and on top of this you are people to act and you are people to carry out your duty as before.

If Mr (Nerwolopec) was a minister during the past, this is the work you are going to do, and you are already doing; you are already doing it actually. So I see no reason why, and I do think that there is nothing actually and that anyone who think or to take panic for any measure which is going on. Never at all. We just require you to assist you. We want you to make a show, a practical show, of course. We want you to make a practical show to the people that this thing can happen also in your time, that you can also do so if it is a question of formality and so on.

Nevertheless you will make that this is a measure [words indistinct] during this time, for you, I mean the public or the masses of Equatoria Region. The committees, of course, up to now say they are taking stocks, but please I must say very clearly there is nothing that has been made in the Army Headquarters here that some personnel will be disbanded, or so and so will be disbanded, or such and such will happen, and this and this and what have you. This is such a thing I think does not surprise us because part of Sudanese probably used to live on this type of violent rumors, manipulations and the like and so on. This is very common to us and we understand it very well and we have a clue to that there is nothing going to happen.

Even you in your planning in the ministry, there must be planning. You must have the personnel and you must have the resources for it. You cannot just dress yourselves with old clothes or [words indistinct] (?work). This will not happen. This will be very difficult and if I tell you if you did such dressing then you must have (?something for it), which is better. Those who are adopted from other ministries and taken to the Parliament to work, they will go back to their ministries, because there is no Parliament now. And that is all. This is what is going to happen. they will just see the Parliament is closed, then what do you keep them there for? If he is a technician or he is a radio official, or he is an accountant, or he is a documentation officer, then what do you keep him there for? Because there is no documentation in the Parliament. He will go and begin documenting in the Ministry of Health or Agriculture or what have you, and this is just as simple as that. Why to create this panic for the poor boys and [words indistinct]. We warn you to assist us when in seeing that it is good also if you have to adopt our methods, also since we will be working with you.

Excellencies, the directors: Since we will be working with you, and you will be the people carrying out the interest of the population and the public here in Equatoria Region. I think that we would like you also to adopt such things for us also: from our work in the Army, and that is discipline. We want you to (?try) this. It will not be easy of course for the first few miles, but Ithink afterwards it will be easy if you run 100 meters a day, next time you will run 200 or so, since they say that we only run and that is all. Thank you.

SPLA-SPLM Rejects Moves by 'Reactionary Parties'

EA171440 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] A spokesman for SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] says that the position of the SPLA-SPLM on the current political developments in the country remains the same. We reject all attempts by the reactionary parties to usurp power from the professional bodies and the SPLA-SPLM who have been instrumental in bringing down the May regime.

In this context the spokesman said the SPLA-SPLM strongly denounces and rejects the opportunistic moves being made by personalities like Samuel Aru Bol and Daniel Kuot Matthews who has been a tool in Numayri's policy of divide and rule. SPLA-SPLM requests all patriotic politicians in both the north and south to disassociate themselves from further provocation and concentrate on final solution to the real problem of the masses. Our listeners are hereby reminded that SPLA Radio will soon bring a commentary on the subject.

SPLA Attacks Garrison Following End of Cease-Fire

EA181349 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Excerpt] In the resumption of operations by SPLA forces after expiry of the 7-day cease-fire period earlier announced by the commander in chief of the SPLA, Rhino Battalion, under the command of Lt Col P.F.C. Martin Markur Aleo launched a highly successful attack yesterday, Wednesday, 17 April 1985 on Tonj Army Garrison. In the engagement the enemy lost 22 killed and 9 injured.

SPLA Radio: Units Attack 'Enemy' Garrison 17 Apr

EA181440 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Yesterday, at 0530 on 17 April 1985 units of Jamus [Buffalo] Battalion and the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] Commando Corps made a heavy and successful raid on Akobo Garrison, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and severe damage on enemy property and installations. This operation came in response to the order issued to the SPLA Forces by the commander in chief of the SPLA to commence military operations as from 2400 on 6 April 1985 [as heard] if the generals under Siwar al-Dhahab in Khartoum failed to hand over power to the people by that time at the latest.

SPLA Radio To Broadcast in Major National Languages

EA171422 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Sources in the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] Department of Information have revealed that Radio SPLA will soon begin broadcasting in some other major Sudanese Languages. For a start, Nuer, Bari, Nuba, and Dinka will be used. It is

planned that more major Sudanese languages will be added in the long run. The day for the commencement of these services has not yet be fixed. The new program will not affect the 1-hour English-Arabic services of the Radio SPLA, the sources added.

TUNISIA

L'ACTION Cites Visiting PRC Minister on Relations

PM171246 Tunis L'ACTION in French 9 Apr 85 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Mohamed Mzali Receives Chinese Public Health Minister"]

[Text] Mr Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and minister of the interior had a meeting at the Kasbah government palace at noon yesterday with Chinese Public Health minister Cui Yyeli.

In a statement made to TAP at the end of the meeting Mr Cui stressed that bilateral cooperation and Tunisian-Chinese ties of friendship were the main points discussed. He added, in this connection, that Mr Mzali had been informed of the results produced by the Chinese delegation's visit, the state of cooperation between the two countries in the health care sphere, and the prospects for this cooperation.

After recalling the importance of Mr Mzali's official visit to China last October — a visit which, he said, gave new impetus to the strengthening of relations of friendship and cooperation — the Chinese health minister expressed satisfaction at Tunisia's desire and the importance attached by Mr Mzali to strengthening Tunisian-Chinese cooperation in all spheres.

Mr Cui thanked the prime minister and Tunisian officials for the warm welcome given to him and expressed his best wishes for Tunisia's prosperity and progress under President Habib Bourguiba's leadership. The meeting was attended by Public Health Minister Dr Souad Lyagoubi Ouahchi and Chinese Ambassador in Tunis Xie Bangding.

FRG Defense Official Received by Defense Minister

LD171834 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Tunis, 17 Apr (TAP) — National Defense Minister Mr Slaheddine Baly, yesterday received at his office a delegation of the FRG Defense Ministry, headed by Dr Robert Herzog, head of the ministry's technical aid department. The delegation is visiting Tunisia in the framework of cooperation between the two ministries.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Praises Zimbabwe's Role in Fighting RSA

EA172345 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam — Tanzania has praised Zimbabwe for its outstanding role in fighting against the tactics of destabilization and wanton destruction of life and property of innocent people by the racist South African regime. In a congratulatory message to President Canaan Banana of Zimbabwe on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of ..is country's independence tomorrow, President Nyerere said Zimbabwe's fearless stand has been very [word indistinct].

Mwalimu said Zimbabwe's role and the part she plays in the frontline states has been outstanding. He said Zimbabwe's policy of national reconciliation has restored peace and unity in the country and has earned its leaders respect among all peace loving people. He said Tanzania will continue to work closely with Zimbabwe in the mutual objective of achieving total liberation of the African continent [words indistinct], stability and economic development in the region.

President Nyerere expressed the hope that the existing cooperation between Tanzania and Zimbabwe would continue to be strengthened for the mutual benefit of the peoples of both countries.

Kawawa Condemns U.S.-ROK Military Exercises

EA171513 Dakar PANA in English 1250 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam, 17 April (SHIHATA/PANA) — The secretary-general of Tanzania's ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), Mr Rashidi Kawawa, has condemned the joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises being conducted in the Korean peninsula. The secretary-general was talking to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) ambassador to Tanzania, Mr Li Yong-yon, when the latter paid a courtesy call on him.

Kawawa said CCM strongly supported efforts of the DPRK's Worker's Party towards the re-unification of South and North Korea. The secretary-general also hailed Korean people for their economic and technical assistance to Tanzania.

Replying, Ambassador Li praised the relationship between Tanzania and DPRK, saying the two countries were shoulder to shoulder in the common front against imperialism and for maintaining world peace and security.

Tanzania and Korea co-operate in a number of fields including agriculture. the two have a joint commission which make follow-ups of the joint ventures undertaken.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Holds Talks With Cuba's Malmierca

EA171223 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today received and held talks with Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Cuban Communist Party and minister of foreign affairs. Receiving Comrade Isidoro Malmierca in a ceremony held at his WPE Central Committee special office, our comrade secretary general held talks on the relations and friendship between revolutionary Ethiopia and revolutionary Cuba and on current international issues. Regarding the forthcoming ministerial council meeting of the countries of the Nonaligned Movement in New Delhi, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam held talks with the Cuban foreign minister concerning the timely and major points which this meeting should raise concerning the Namibian issue.

Present during the talks were, Comrade Goshu Wolde WPE Central Committee member and foreign minister, and Comrade Francisco Cabrera Gonzalez, Cuban ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia.

Cuban Minister Promotes Ties

EA172341 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1700 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, Central Committee member of the Cuban Communist Party and minister of foreign affairs, left for New Delhi today, on completion of his 4-day visit to Ethiopia, to attend the nonaligned nations' foreign ministers meeting.

Comrade Isidoro said that during his stay in Addis Ababa he held talks with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on African and international issues, in addition to holding exhaustive discussions on further strengthening future cooperation in development and similar fields, based on the existing close relations between the two friendly countries. He stated that during talks regarding Namibia's independence, he affirmed that, as in the past, the two sides will in future continue to give full support to the ongoing struggle to enable the people to consolidate their freedom, and evacuate the racist South African regime from Namibian territory without any preconditions.

The minister was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Tibebu Bekele, deputy minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Francisco Cabrera Gonzalez, Cuban ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by members of the Indian Embassy to revolutionary Ethiopia.

BRIEFS

Drought Relief Loan — Ethiopia has secured a loan of $12.5 million from the International Fund for Agricultural Development on long and concessional terms to help finance the rehabilitation program in drought-affected areas of the country. According to a press release from the Ministry of Finance the loan will be used for the procurement and distribution of basic farm inputs and implements, assistance toward the protection and development of soil and water resources, the improvement of rural health services as well as a provision for domestic water supplies to farmers. [Text] [*Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 12 Apr 85 LD*]

Families Resettled — More than 500 heads of peasant families who left Gayint Province in Gonder region [northern Ethiopia] to be helped by the resettlement program after being affected by the drought problem arrived in Metema [Gonder Region] resettlement center yesterday and today. When these peasants who willingly and fully accepted the WPE Central Committee Politburo and the revolutionary governments action plan to settle our compatriots affected by drought in fertile areas to help them and make them productive citizens arrived in Chilga Province of Gonder Region, they were welcomed by WPE committee members of the area, cadres, and the community and they received the houses prepared for them. On this occasion, representatives of the peasants affirmed that they will implement development plans formulated by the WPE Central Committee Politburo and the revolutionary government. [Text] [*Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 12 Apr 85 LD*]

KENYA

Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

EA172333 Nairobi KNA in English 1700 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Nairobi April 17 KNA — The deputy foreign minister of the Hungarian People's Republic, Dr Gabor Nagy, arrived today in Nairobi to start a 4-days official visit to Kenya.

On arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Dr Nagy said that under the present global economic recess, "small" developing countries should work together in a bid to contributing positively to better their economic standard.

Saying that Kenya and Hungary shared common economic values the minister expressed the hope that his visit to Kenya will strengthen the existing friendly relations between the two countries. He said that the People's Republic of Hungary was looking forward to redouble the scientific, educational, political, economic and cultural exchange programmes adding that there was still some room of expansion of the mutual understanding between the two countries.

Dr Nagy who was accompanied by the counsellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Ferenc Boesenbacher will hold talks with President Moi and Foreign Minister Elijah Mwangale before he leaves Kenya for Tanzania on Sunday. Met on arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by senior foreign affairs officials and Hungarian Charge d'Affaires in Kenya Mr Bela Agaston, Dr Nagy will also visit Mozambique and Ethiopia before returning home.

CHAD

Liberation Front Leader on Libyan Activities

AB171747 Paris AFP in French 1556 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Lagos, 17 Apr (AFP) -- [Words indistinct] founder of the Chadian National Liberation Front, Frolinat, and chairman of the former Chadian National Union Party, UNT, accused Libya of trying to incorporate the totality of northern Chad and denounces the activities of the Libyan embassies throughout black Africa in a statement given to AFP in Lagos. Mr Adam Moussa accused the Libyans of trying to incorporate northern Chad, far beyond the Aouzou strip (occupied by Libya for several years now), by using their Army, which is stationed in northern Chad, and by practicing a policy of "depopulation and repopulation" in the area. According to Mr Moussa, the Libyan embassies are in charge of giving Libyan birth certificates and passports to Chadians from North Kanem and sending them to Tripoli. These Chadians are then sent to Sheba and Benghazi, whereas Libyans from these cities are transfered to Gourou which is a Chadian town, Mr Moussa added. He also said, but did not disclose his sources of information, that 37,240 persons (men, women, and children) have already been transfered. Libya's goal is to transfer of 100,000 people, Mr Moussa said. He said that other Chadians are also recruited in Africa and sent to Tripoli to be trained in military camps. They are then sent to governments or liberation movements which have contacts with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. According to Mr Moussa, 15,000 Chadians were sent to Lebanon, Iran, or Zaire's Shaba Province.

In his statement to AFP dated on 15 April, Mr Moussa called on all Chadians to organize a roundtable conference in order to "find a solution to the Chadian conflict."

GABON

Chadian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

AB172032 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1900 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Events taking place indicate that Libreville, the Gabonese capital, has become a privileged hub of meetings on Chad. In fact, Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou arrived in Gabon some hours ago. This visit comes less than 3 weeks after the one he paid us recently. Then, at about 2100 local time, his French counterpart, Roland Dumas, whose arrival was announced yesterday, will be in the Gabonese capital. In view of the importance of the recent visits of Chadian and French officials to Libreville and during which the Chadian issue was at the center of discussions with the Gabonese authorities, it would be very surprising if the Chadian issue was not discussed once again. However, the Chadian foreign minister said upon his arrival that he was not informed about the arrival of his French counterpart:

[Begin Lassou recording] I honestly did not know that Mr Dumas was coming to Libreville. What is certain is that Mr Dumas is coming to Libreville to see President Bongo who is our elder brother and an elder brother of President Hissein Habre. [end recording]

ZAIRE

President Meets Liberian Deputy Foreign Minister

AB171842 Dakar PANA in French 1725 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 17 Apr (AZAP/PANA) -- Christopher Minikon, Liberia's deputy foreign minister who spent 3 days in Zaire and delivered a friendly message from General Samuel Doe, president of Liberia, to President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, left Kinshasa on Tuesday for Nairobi on a similar mission.

The Liberian official who was received shortly before his departure by the Zairian head of state, did not make any statement to newsmen. He only stressed that "relations between the two countries and the two peoples are good." During his stay in Kinshasa, Mr Minikon held talks with Mokolo wa Mpombo, Zairian minister of external relations and international cooperation, and Mr Djamboleka, minister of finance and budget. They discussed issues of bilateral cooperation.

Mr Minikon also introduced Robert Tubman, Liberia's candidate to the post of president of the African Development Bank, BAD, to the Zairian head of state.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara, Ivorian Minister's Talks 'Positive'

AB171325 Paris AFP in French 0927 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Ouagadougou, 17 Apr (AFP) — Ivorian Foreign Minister Simeon Ake left Ouagadougou yesterday evening for Abidjan after having been received twice during the day by President Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso at the Presidency, official sources disclosed. According to the sources, the Ivorian foreign minister's visit to Ouagadougou was "positive" and enabled the authorities of both countries to "take note of the good intentions of the Ivorian authorities," particularly their desire to end the week-old controversy between the two countries involving their media. Mr Ake led a high-powered delegation, including Abdoulaye Kone, the minister of economy and finance.

The controversy between the two countries, it will be recalled, began following the assassination of Valentin Kinda — a renowned Burkinabe businessman living in the Ivory Coast — in Abidjan on 8 April. According to the authorities in Ouagadougou, it was said that this was a sordid crime to be added to other persecutions and misdeeds perpetrated against Burkinabe nationals living in the Ivory Coast. According to Abidjan, it was rather a "political crime carried out by hired killers."

Zairian Minister Delivers Message to Sankara

AB172206 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Comrade Thomas Sankara, president of the Faso, this afternoon receieved and met with Mokolo wa Mpombo, secretary of state [title as heard] for foreign affairs and international cooperation of Zaire. Mr wa Mpombo, who was conducted to the President's Office by Comrade Ernest Nongma Ouedraogo, minister of territorial administration and security, was paying his first visit to Burkina. He brought a message from Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko to his Burkinabe counterpart. On what he discussed with the president of the Faso, let us listen to Mr wa Mpombo talking to [name indistinct]:

[Begin Wa Mpombo recording] I cannot disclose what we discussed to you because it concerns a message between two presidents — President Mobutu and President Sankara. But what I can say is that it had something to do with bilateral issues between Zaire and Burkina Faso. Although Zaire and Burkina (?belong to different regions), within the framework of the OAU, we have several recommendations under the Lagos plan of action that favor interregional consultations, and (?cooperation).

What I can say about my first contact with President Sankara is that I found a man who is courageously fighting against the various problems facing Africa; a man who is at the head of a country that has immense difficulties, but who takes things calmly and who has the political courage and the will to move his country away from these problems brought about not only by nature, history but also [passage indistinct]. A man who is conducting an experiment that can be beneficial to all countries of Africa. [end recording]

GHANA

USSR Cultural Delegation Arrives for Visit

AB170856 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] A 2-man delegation from the Ministry of Culture in the Soviet Union has arrived in Ghana to begin a 1-week visit. Speaking to newsmen on arrival in Accra, the leader of the delegation, Vladimir Morozov, who is also the head of department of the Ministry of Culture in the Soviet Union, said their visit is in line with the cultural agreement between Ghana and the Soviet Union. He said it will enable them to exchange ideas in both Ghanaian culture and tourism and those of the Soviet Union. Mr Morozov disclosed that two representatives from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism are expected to visit the Soviet Union at a later date to know more about its culture.

GDR Telecommunications Team Arrives in Accra

AB172120 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] A 5-man telecommunications team from the German Democratic Republic now in the country, today called on the director general of the Post and Telecommunications Corporation, Lieutenant Colonel Christina Debrah in Accra. Their discussions centered on rural telecommunications. The leader of the delegation, Mr (Steinberg Eckrat) praised the importance of rural telecommunications in the national development effort. He said: Since the wealth of the country is generated mostly from the rural areas, it is important that they be adequately catered for by way of telecommunications. Mr (Eckrat) briefed the director general of what the GDR is capable of providing in this respect and said that country has had useful discussions on the installation of rural telecommunications in [names indistinct] Cameroon, Algeria, and (?Mexico) [passage indistinct]

On her part, Colonel Debrah said the government is aware of the importance of telecommunications in the national economic recovery program and is sparing no effort to assist the corporation. She referred to a number of development projects which the corporation has embarked upon and said when completed, they will bring a vast improvement to the country's telecommunications services.

IVORY COAST

Further on Zairian Foreign Minister's Remarks

AB171005 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 17 Apr 85 p 5

[Third and final part of Michel Kouame's interview with Mokolo wa Mpombo, Zairian state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, in Abidjan — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Kouame] In 1971, President Houphouet-Boigny suggested a dialogue with South Africa in order to make that country understand that the system of apartheid should be stopped.

People did not understand him. Dialogue has now been established between South Africa and some African countries that do not hide their hatred for apartheid. Do you have the impression that President Houphouet-Boigny was right too soon?

[Mokolo] Of course, he was right too soon. Let me quote President Houphouet-Boigny: "Dialogue is the weapon of the strong." One cannot solve the problem of apartheid by the use of force. I do not think the African countries, which are facing numerous problems, can wage war against South Africa. For example, our sister countries which are neighbors of South Africa — Mozambique and Angola — have been compelled to engage in a dialogue with that country. Let us suppose that we had in Pretoria 30 embassies of black countries. This would change many things simply because each of these embassies would have black personnel who would live in the same conditions as the whites .... What we must do is to surpass ourselves. If direct dialogue with South Africa is unacceptable, then it is essential to discuss apartheid with the countries supporting South Africa. I mean the United States, France, Germany, and Great Britain.

And I can affirm with great conviction that President Houhpouet-Boigny has always been right too soon; he is often ahead of others.

[Kouame] Your country is among those that have trade relations with South Africa. Is this not incompatible with the African policy of Zaire, which often condemns and denounces the system of apartheid?

[Mokolo] I think the question should rather be the following: Which are the African countries that do not trade with South Africa? Zaire condemns the system of apartheid but Zaire is not against South Africa. South Africa could become a member of the OAU if it abandons the system of apartheid. Zaire is not against the whites living in that country; they are Africans....

Concerning the trade relations between Zaire and South Africa, I would like to tell you one thing: It is not the Zairian Government that is maintaining these relations. Similarly, in many African countries, there exist companies which have direct or indirect relations with South Africa. Take Lonrho, for example. It is in Zaire as well as in South Africa. In the same way, there exist in all our countries many companies and multinationals that have relations with South Africa. But the governments of our countries have no policy of establishing trade relations with South Africa. I must tell you, once again, that it is almost impossible to control the activities of the multinationals.

LIBERIA

Ex-Officials Arrested for Alleged Takeover Plot

AB171803 Lagos NAN in English 1715 GMT 17 Apr 85

[By Samuel Ajibola]

[Text] Monrovia, April 17, (NAN) — A Monrovia court has ordered the arrest of two former government officials allegedly involved in a plot to overthrow the government of Cdr. Gen Samuel Doe in November.

Reliable sources in the Liberian capital gave the names of the two as Mr Tonie King, former commissioner in the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, and Mr John Richardson, ex-deputy managing director of Air Liberia.

Mr King, who is said to be residing in the Ivory Coast, allegedly promised to bring in men from that country to assist in ousting Cdr. Gen Doe and installing a Marxist regime in the country. Mr Richardson was alleged to have undertaken to underwrite the expenses for the operation. He currently resides in the U.S.

A former U.S. marine, William Woodhouse, who was said to be in league with the plotters, had been arrested and was jailed last month by a criminal court in Monrovia for mercenaries.[sentence as received]

The West Africa correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) quotes the sources as saying that Liberia has no extradition treaty with the two countries.

A fortnight ago, Cdr. Gen Doe said that he escaped an assassination attempt by a close associate, Lt Col. Moses Flanzamaton, who has since been executed on the order of the Liberian leader.

Cdr. Gen Doe, who came to power in a bloody coup on April 12, 1980, claimed to have escaped at least six coup attempts against him and most of the alleged accomplices have either been executed or have fled the country.

Election Commission Lifts Political Suspension

AB180900 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 655 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] The political suspension imposed on the proposed United People's Party, UPP, on 17 January this year by the Special Elections Commission [Secom] has been lifted. In a letter addressed yesterday to the chairman of the proposed UPP, Gabriel Baccus Matthews, which was read at the commission by Commissioner Isaac Randolph, Secom is quoted as acknowledging receipt of a letter from the proposed UPP on 10 April in which it said full payment of the fine of $600 imposed on them was made. Secom said it was pleased to inform the proposed UPP that in compliance with their decision, the suspension imposed on them on 17 January was hereby lifted with immediate effect.

Shortly after the lifting of the suspension, the chairman of the proposed UPP, G. Baccus Matthews, thanked the commission for the lifting of the suspension and said they will return early in May with their registration list for publication. Mr Matthews also told the press that his proposed party represents the interests of a significant portion of the Liberian population and that they have always believed that the party can be suspended but not the people, adding: The people are there, and it is their will that we win the poll ultimately as God is always on their side.

Lack of Funds Hinder Election Group's Role

AB171824 Lagos NAN in English 1723 GMT 17 Apr 85

[By Samuel Ajibola]

[Text] Monrovia, April 17, (NAN) — Liberia's Special Elections Commission (Secom) charged with organising general elections in October to return the country to civil rule, is seriously starved of funds to enable it to effectively discharge its functions, sources close to the body said yesterday.

The sources told the West Africa correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Monrovia that the commission had stopped the registration of voters because it could not pay officials who were handling the registration of voters. They said that the commission owed the officials 1.4 million dollars (about N1.12 million) but had so far been able to pay only half the amount. It added that it could only engage 2,300 officials out of the 5,000 officials needed to register voters before the elections.

Secom has so far registered 287,877 eligible voters out of the 977,826 people of voting age before the exercise was called off for lack of funds, the sources said. In spite of the financial difficulties facing the commission and the nation as a whole, Liberian leader Samuel Doe said on Friday that his government would go ahead with plans to ensure an orderly transfer of power to civilians as scheduled.

MALI

North Korea To Build Diplomatic Training Center

AB121710 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] The head of state, General Moussa Traore, received the DPRK ambassador to Mali this morning. The audience took place in the presence of Alhousseyni Toure, permanent secretary at the Presidency, and Tidiani Guisse, diplomatic adviser to the head of state. After the audience, Ambassador Hong Il-ho talked to our reporter Amara Conde.

[Begin Hong recording in Korean fading into French translation] During the meeting, we discussed a number of issues relating to the strengthening and the development of the friendship existing between our two peoples. I briefed His Excellency General Moussa Traore, president of the Republic, on the importance that our great leader, Comrade Kim Il-song, attaches to the construction of the center for the training of diplomatic cadres, which is a gift from the Korean people. Expressing his satisfaction, His Excellency President Moussa Traore told me that he maintains close links with our great leader, Comrade Kim Il-song, and that the construction of the center for the training of diplomatic cadres will help to consolidate the friendship and the solidarity between our two peoples. [end recording]

NIGERIA

Minister Denies UK Allegations of Maltreatment

AB171841 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, has denied allegations by the British Government that detained Britons in the country were being maltreated. Dr Gambari told the acting British high commissioner to Nigeria, Mr Thomas Wyatt, who was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs, that the Britons in detention were not being discriminated against. He said that it is also untrue that British High Commission officials were being denied consular access to visit those in prison.

The minister told Mr Wyatt to convey to the British authorities the protest of the Federal military government (?on the maltreatment) of an imprisoned Nigerian, Mr Mohamed Yusuf. Mr Yusuf was convicted by a British court for his involvement in the abortive attempt to kidnap the fugitive Umaru Dikko last year. Dr Gambari told the high commissioner that Nigeria was concerned and distressed by the (?frequency at which) the acting Nigerian high commissioner in London was [word indistinct] summoned to the Foreign Office for harrassment. The Federal military government, he said [words indistinct] by the British press. He pointed out that the campaign by the British press was not only detrimental to normalizing relations between the two countries, but would also undermine the excellent relations between Nigeria and its neighbors.

Editorial Endorses Directive on Illegal Aliens

AB171042 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Apr 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *NIGERIAN HERALD*, in an editorial entitled "Immigration and Illegal Aliens," fully endorses the recent Federal government directive on illegal aliens in the country to regularize their immigration papers or to voluntarily leave the country before the 10th of next month. The paper points out that the illiegal aliens do not only constitute a risk to the security of the nation, but also constitute unwanted parasites on the country's fragile economy. The *HERALD* is not happy that the illegal aliens have continued to flock the country's streets in spite of the closure of Nigeria's borders. This, it says, is not only embarrassing but shows the extent of the porosity of the country's borders. The paper cautions the Federal government to ensure that the present exercise is properly handled to put an end to the question of illegal aliens in the country.

A decree with serious penalty, continues the paper, may need to be promulgated to punish all saboteurs of the government's efforts at ridding the country of undesirable elements. Such saboteurs, according to the paper, should include all those who employ or marry any of the illegal aliens.

Labor Minister Says 17,000 Workers Retrenched

AB171758 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Over 17,000 workers were retrenched by 21 industrial establishments between January last year and March this year. During the same period, more than 8,000 federal government workers were also retrenched. The figures were given by the minister of employment, labor, and productivity, Major General Solomon Omojokun, at a seminar in Lagos.

Maj Gen Omojokun identified the causes of retrenchment and unemployment as financial mismanagement of the economy by the ousted civilian regime, and the oil glut which resulted in the low revenue accruing to the nation. The minister remarked that efforts by the Federal government to solve the problem included the conservation of foreign exchange earnings, issuance of import licenses to manufacturing industries, and a directive to employers not to retrench except as a last resort.

The seminar, which ends today, is being attended by members of the NLC [Nigeria Labor Congress] National Executive Council, and representatives of the government and the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association.

SENEGAL

Abdou Diouf Ends Private Visit to United States

AB172142 Dakar Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpt] President Abdou Diouf's private visit to the United States has ended. The head of state left Washington this morning for Dakar, where he is expected to arrive this evening at 2230. Yesterday, before his meeting with the chairman of the Democratic Party, the head of state inaugurated the headquarters of the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium.

ANGOLA

Foreign Minister on RSA Troop Withdrawal

AU171258 Paris AFP in English 1238 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Paris, April 17 (AFP) — The situation in Southern Africa following the withdrawal of the remaining South African troops from Southern Angola this week was at the centre of talks between Angolan Foreign Minister Alfonso Van Dunem Mbinda and Guy Penne, French presidential adviser on African affairs.

The Angolan minister was making a stopover in France on his way to India, where he is to attend a meeting of the Non- aligned Movement's coordination bureau on Namibia.

The French Government has always rejected the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as a condition of Namibian independence, as South Africa and the United States have demanded.

France suspended its participation in the Western contact group on Namibia in protest at the breakdown of independence negotiations. The other members of the group are the United States, Canada, Britain and West Germany.

Defense Minister Returns From Zambia, Tanzania

MB180643 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha, the Angolan minister of defense, returned to the country yesterday afternoon, after visiting Zambia and Tanzania from 13 to 16 April. Approached by the media at the 4 February International Airport, Col Pedro Maria Tonha said that his visit to those two frontline states permitted the consolidation of the existing ties of friendship and cooperation among the three governments.

The Angolan defense minister, who said these visits were very positive, discussed both the war problems in Southern Africa and ways to coordinate the fight against the bandits and the puppets paid by imperialism with his Zambian and Tanzanian counterparts.

Col Pedro Maria Tonha, who is also a member of the MPLA-Labor Party political bureau, was received by presidents Kenneth Kaunda and Julius Nyerere, in Zambia and Tanzania respectively.

At the end of Col Tonha's visit to Tanzania, a joint communique was published reiterating Angola's and Tanzania's condemnation of apartheid's criminal policies in South Africa, and the occupation of a portion of the Angolan territory by the South African army. In the document, the two countries agreed to strengthen their military cooperation in all fields, under the framework of developing concerted actions among the frontline states. The two countries also reiterated their firm and indefectible support for the struggle of the Namibian and South African peoples led by SWAPO and the ANC.

Da Silva 'Optimistic' After Benguela Visit

MB180736 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Osvaldo Lopes da Silva, the Cape Verde minister of economy and finance, said that the problems experienced by Angola are seen with profound optimism, regarding their short-term solutions. Before leaving Benguela for Namibe, Osvaldo Lopes da Silva said that he was satisfied with Benguela Province's agricultural and industrial potential and especially Lobito port, which plays a pivotal role in Angola's economic development.

During the visit which he paid to Benguela Province, the Cape Verde minister of economy and finance visited (Estalnave's) naval docks and the (Cabaco) agricultural and livestock complex. Osvaldo Lopes da Silva also held a meeting with the Cape Verde community in Benguela, whom he exhorted to courageously help the Angolan people in the struggle for the consolidation of [words indistinct].

MPLA Labor Delegation Leaves for GDR Visit

MB180635 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] A MPLA-Labor Party delegation headed by Norberto dos Santos, the director of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Organization Department, arrived in Berlin yesterday, for a visit to the GDR which is expected to last several days.

While in Berlin, the Angolan party delegation will analyze issues relating to party cooperation, especially organization and running of the party, with GDR Socialist Unity Party officials. The Angolan party delegation includes senior officials of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Organization Department.

Envoy Meets With USSR Official in Moldavia

MB181830 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] In Kishinev 2 days ago, Comrade Cesar Augusto Pilnoz, the ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola to the USSR, held a meeting with the Moldavian minister of foreign affairs. During the meeting, the Angolan diplomat and the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic official discussed issues connected with developments in the situation in southern Africa, and the efforts being developed by Angola for the restoration of peace in this region of the African continent.

The Angolan ambassador to the USSR, who has been on a several-day visit to Moldavia, was also received by the Moldavian minister of education, who briefed him on the academic progress being made by the Angolan students pursuing their training there.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machungo on Strengthening Ties With Soviets

MB171150 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] While in Moscow Mario Machungo, the minister of planning, has expressed the belief that the meeting of the intergovernmental commission currently taking place in Moscow will constitute a further step toward the strengthening of the friendship ties linking Mozambique and the USSR.

The participants in the meeting have already analyzed the degree of observance of the existing cooperation accords, trade relations, and prospects for cooperation between Mozambique and the USSR.

Before the beginning of the commission's proceedings, Mario da Graca Machungo,the minister of planning, held a meeting with Mikhail Sergeychik, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for foreign economic relations. This meeting focused on issues related to the development of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Official Talks Begin With Hungarian Delegation

MB171155 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Mozambique and Hungary began official talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mapuo yesterday. The meeting is expected to focus on the development of Mozambican-Hungarian cooperation, as well as on the means of increasing it. The delegations are headed by Daniel Mbanze, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Gabor Nagy, the Hungarian deputy foreign minister.

SOUTH AFRICA

Remaining SADF Members Withdrawn From Angola

MB171432 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] South Africa withdrew the last members of the South African Defense Force [SADF] from Angola at about 1045 this morning. Our political news staff reports that the final withdrawal took place at Oshikango, on the border between South-West Africa and Angola. The remaining troops crossing the border were led by members of the South African Colored Corps. The entire ceremony lasted about half an hour and about 500 troops and a hundred vehicles moved past the saluting podium. The salute was taken by the chief of the SADF, General Constand Viljoen, the director general of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ray Killen, and the chief of the army, General Jannie Geldenhuys.

Also present at the ceremony was a group of four officers from the Angolan Army who are members of the Joint Monitoring Commission [JMC]. Their leader declined to answer questions about his presence except to say that he was a guest of the SADF.

Our political news staff reports that the presence of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] members nontheless could be regarded as an unofficial recognition of today's events at Oshikango.

At a news conference after the march past, Gen Viljoen and Mr Killen made it clear that the intention of the unilateral withdrawal of South African troops is to help bring about peace in the area. However, Gen Viljoen said, if the situation is exploited be it by SWAPO, the FAPLA Forces, or the Cubans — South Africa would again take action if conditions justified this.

He also confirmed that the JMC would continue its work for 30 days, during which time it would pay attention to the final practical aspects of the withdrawal, as well as the question of the Ruacana Hydroelectric Schemd and the Calueque reservoir, where 60 South African troops remain.

More on Withdrawal, Negotiations

MB171538 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1534 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Oshikango, April 17, SAPA — South Africa and Angola were to finalise negotiations within the next 30 days for peace-keeping arrangements after the two countries Joint Monitoring Commission had terminated, the chief of the SA Defense Force, General Constand Viljoen, said at Oshikango today.

The JMC was established in terms of a tripartite agreement at Lusaka on February 16 last year between South Africa, Angola and the United States.

General Viljoen, who was addressing a news conference after the disengagement of 450 South African troops, together with air and logistical support, said the next 30 days would be used to secure peace and stability between South Africa and Angola.

Particular attention would be given to the Ruacana-Galueque hydroelectrical scheme built to supply electiricity to Angola and SWA/Namibia.

The sluice gates of the power plant on the Cunene River are situated in Angola, but the turbines are on the SWA/Namian side of the border.

Since building was completed, the scheme has been operating on a seasonal basis only, because the sluice gates cannot be operated from SWA/Namibia to regulate the flow of water for the generation of electricity in dry periods.

General Viljoen said the final outcome concerning future consultations between Angola and South Africa would depend on "inter-governmental agreements" negotiated in the next 30 days.

The JMC began operations at Cuvelai, nearly 200 km north of SWA/Namibia, on March 18 last year. It gradually moved southwards to stations at Mupa, Evale and Ongiva — areas where the commission had been since May 3 last year until this week, when the South African Government ordered the final disengagement of its forces.

The South African soldiers who arrived in SWA/Namibia from Angola today were accompanied by a company of the Angolan JMC contingent as far as the border, General Viljoen said.

Commentary Hails Shultz' Remarks on U.S. Role
MB171610 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 17 Apr 85
[Station commentary: "Constructive Engagement"]

[Text] The speech by the American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, in which he defended his country's policy of constructive engagement in southern Africa should be widely welcomed in the subcontinent.

Southern Africa today is an arena for competition between the world's greatest democracy, the United States, and the world's most radical power, the Soviet Union. The tactics of these two differ markedly. The United States is intent on spreading its influence through the promotion of stability in the subcontinent coupled with economic development. That in a nutshell is what America's policy of costructive engagement is all about. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, has involved itself wherever there is instability in the subcontinent. The fruits of the American policy of constructive engagement are obvious and have become increasingly obvious to African states in the south and elsewhere.

South African peace initiatives in southern Africa have been closely followed and encouraged by the United States. For example, the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique was not only welcomed by the United States, but soon after the Americans lifted their trade embargo on Mozambique, and relations between the United States and Mozambique improved.

There can be no doubt that should the United States abandon its constructive engagement policy (?and issue) a more aggressive policy that includes disinvestment, other countries of southern Africa would suffer the most serious consequences.

About South Africa's ability to survive such action there can be no doubt. The country is strong and prosperous, but about its neighbors' ability to survive there must be serious doubts. It is therefore in the interests of all the countries of Southern Africa that they strongly support and (?project) their support to the [word indistinct] of the Reagan administration in this part of the world.

Editorial Criticizes Protests Against U.S. Role
MB171505 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 4 Apr 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Demos"]

[Text] A demonstration which the United Democratic Front [UDF] staged at the Citibank offfices in Johannesbrug this week may be the forerunner of other demonstrations to protest against the presence of American companies in South Africa.

It is also likely to have been staged as a counterpart to the demonstrations in America outside our embassy and consulates against apartheid and investment in South Africa.

We do not think American companies here will be pushed into quitting South Africa by the local or the American demonstrations.

But what happened this week confirms our impression that the UDF is playing to an overseas gallery, drawing attention to itself and its campaigns and against the existing order and at the same time giving South Africa the worst possible publicity in order to rouse world opinion against the Republic.

Its skillful propaganda war began with the sit-in at the British consulate in Durban, when South Africa received a terrible pasting abroad.

The Coloured and Indian elections were undermined by intimidation, the low poll being used to suggest the Coloured and Indian communities rejected the tricameral Parliament.

Elements of the UDF played a role in the Vaal Triangle unrest — and the UDF portrayed the police as ruthless shooters of innocent people.

The same UDF elements have helped to keep the unrest going since then, with terrible consequences for Blacks themselves, for it is Blacks who have become victims of Black violence.

Now the UDF, together with the political priests of the South African Council of Churches, has decided to give the country a further hammering by staging demonstrations that will force police to intervene, giving South Africa more bad publicity.

Thus we had the demonstration near Parliament in which more than 200 people were arrested.

Overseas opinion was led to believe that the tough, ruthless South African Government had denied people the democratic right of protest, whereas the law specifically bars demonstrations in the vicinity of Parliament.

Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Protestant Churches, was a leader of that demo.

Like Bishop Desmond Tutu, bishop of Johannesburg, he is a focal point of dissent. And like Bishop Tutu, he has an international status that guarantees him a world forum for the poison he injects agaisnt the existing order.

Neither openly calls for disinvestment, Bishop Tutu fearing that if he did so he might land in jail for five years.

But they have given enough indication that they believe in disinvestment, although Bishop Tutu is now giving the government 18 months to 2 years to do as he says before he openly calls for economic sanctions. It is not by chance that Mrs Leah Tutu, Bishop Tutu's wife and an activist in her own right, was one of the UDF demonstrators at the Citibank offices.

Not only has the UDF sent people overseas to put the case for disinvestment indirectly — one of them told a news conference in Stockholm this week that disinvestment would not make the Black majority's situation any worse than it is now — but it came close to calling for disinvestment at its Citibank protest.

We believe that the tactics of the UDF will be to stage similar demos at other foreign firms, to get maximum media coverage overseas.

The civil disobedience which Dr Beyers Naude proposes will be used for the same propaganda purposes.

And marches like that led by Bishop Tutu yesterday will be part of the new demo movement.

In time, we will get to appreciate that UDF stands for Utterly Disgraceful Fomenters of trouble.

As for the political priests, we have no words harsh enough to condemn their activities.

For they are helping to make a bad situation infinitely (?worse).

ZAMBIA

Defense Minister Meets With Angolan Counterpart

MB170939 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Defense Minister Clement Mwananshiku has castigated hypocrisy of Western countries whom he has said profess ideas of Christianity and democracy while supporting racist South Africa. Mr Mwananshiku has said South African apartheid (?patterns) are of great danger to the region as they disrupt development. He charged that some Western countries continue rendering support to Pretoria to the extent that they helped South Africa build up what he called awesome military arsenals. Speaking during a dinner he hosted for visiting Angolan defense minister, Colonel Pedro Maria Pedale, at a Lusaka hotel last night, Mr Mwananshiku assured Colonel Pedale that Angola can count on Zambia as a devoted ally of the Angolan's people fight against Western machinations. The minister also called on South Africa to honor the disengagement accord between Luanda and Pretoria, and the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence. He said Zambia and Angola share a common heritage, a common enemy, and common problems, and added that regular visits are important to consolidate relations.

The visiting Angolan minister of defense, Colonel Pedlae who leaves for Tanzania today, has condemned destabilization acts and atrocities by South Africa saying they hinder the development of southern African nations. Speaking during the dinner, Colonel Pedale said despite efforts by frontline states, especially Angola and Mozambique, which have signed nonaggresion pacts with Pretoria, the racist regime continues to perpetuate their war in southern Africa and charged that Angola's government programs are being sabotaged by South Africa because of its support for rebel UNITA forces.

Angolan Minister on Namibia

MB171008 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Angola has said it will sacrifice its [words indistinct] to liberate Namibia. Visiting Angolan defense minister, Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, said in Ndola yesterday that his country will not be cowed by delayed racist South African pullout of its forces from his country. He declared during a luncheon in Ndola that Angola will continue supporting liberation movements, just as Zambia did during his country's struggle against the Portuguese. Colonel Pedale called on both Zambia and Angola to formulate strategies, saying South Africa is armed to its teeth to frustrate Namibian independence.

In Luanshya, Colonel Pedale said imperialist forces are still using reactionary forces to destabilize Angola. He told Luanshya governor, (Peter Leshika), that the intention of the imperialists is to dominate his country.

ZIMBABWE

Justice Minister Announces Ban on ZAPU Symbol

MB172012 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] The government has banned ZAPU from using the bateleur eagle which it adopted as its election symbol. The eagle is part of the insignia of the Air Force of Zimbabwe and the police support unit. Announcing the ban today, the minister of justice, legal, and parliamentary affairs, Comrade Eddison Zvobgo, said the use of the symbol has been banned through the provisions of the Electoral Act-Use of Symbols and regulations of 1985 which were signed and approved by the president.

The regulations stipulate that no person shall use, possess, or wear in connection with, or in furtherance of the (?objectionable) activities of a political party, any object or thing which consists of, or incorporates, or bears the following: Any symbol, representation or device forming part of the badge or uniform of the defense forces, the Zimbabwe Republic Police, or the prison service, and any symbol, representation, or device which so closely resembles any symbol, representation, or device referred to above as to be likely to deceive. The prohibition extends to the use, or possession of banners, flags, badges, uniforms, t-shirts, dresses or other articles of wear, letterheads, circulars, manifestos, notices, and advertisements.

Anyone contravening the act will be liable to an offense, and will be liable to pay a fine not exceeding 500 dollars.